



Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

JANUARY 2019

State President



George Russell
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

I would like to start this month's article by thanking Bethlehem Grange and Mountain Laurel Pomona for a fine reception that was held for Sharon and me at the Community Hall in Bethlehem, on Dec. 9. It was a great turn out of Grange family and my family for an afternoon of good food and friendship. I also received cards and emails from Grangers who couldn't make it that day which was well appreciated. This turned out to be a wonderful day for Sharon and me. Thanks once again for putting on such a nice reception.

I met with the Legislative Committee in December to work on the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Policy Guide for 2019 that will be passed out to our representatives in Hartford. Gordon Gibson will be our liaison again this year. Gordon does a great job in representing the Grange on legislative issues.

The resolutions that the Connecticut State Grange sent on to National Grange for action were as follows:

- Medicare Coverage in Convalescent Homes - Passed
- Legible Directions on Food Preparation Products - Withdrawn
- Grange Youth Department - Rejected
- Junior and Youth Budget - Withdrawn
- Keeping the Jr. Grange Badge Program - Withdrawn
- Sale of Grange Property - Current Policy

On the three withdrawn resolutions from Connecticut—the committee chairpersons came to me and said they were going to reject the resolutions. I withdrew those but the Granges can go back and review them. On the sale of Grange property, I managed to get the resolution back on the floor for discussion. Most delegates agreed that \$1,000 was too low but they also thought that 10% of the sale was too high. After much discussion the resolution was rejected.

As I am writing this article, I was notified by National Grange that the 2018 Farm Bill passed in the House and the Senate. It is an \$867 billion Farm Bill that is now headed for the President's desk for his signature.

In 2019, the General Deputy and Pomona Deputy will begin to schedule inspections for the three Pomona Granges. They would like to schedule the inspections for late spring or early summer. A special meeting can be set up for a degree inspection.

For the Subordinate/Community Granges, a questionnaire will be sent out to all Granges to fill out and return to the State Master along with your Executive Committee report and the Steward's Inventory Report. I am looking to get these out sometime in February or early March. You should be working on your Executive Committee reports in the center of last year's Blue Book. I know some of the Granges have filled them out and have sent a copy to the General Deputy.

Just a quick update on the Northeast Leaders' Conference, which will be hosted by the Connecticut State Grange on March 29 and 30, 2019. Registration will be from 5 to 7 P.M. on March 29 at the Holiday Inn, Norwich (Where we meet for State Session). We

will have speakers lined up for this conference. Todd is working on meal prices and a banquet price. So, keep these dates open. We would like to have a

representative from each Grange in Connecticut to attend.

By the time you read this article, it will be mid-January and the days are

starting to get longer. Do you remember the old saying, "As the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen!"

Understanding millennials



Faith Quinlan
Membership Director
membership@ctstategrange.org

We value new members of all ages. We should not ignore the potential members over 50 as well as continuing to look for members in their 20's and everything in between. My articles focus on the emerging generation because I am looking at a very different approach to a very different group of people. They are human and have hopes and needs just as we all do, but reaching them to keep our organization alive means understanding their specific habits and needs so they can join us to continue our worthy and charitable mission.

Please check out the millennial infographic to see some of the habits they have that may be helpful to consider when considering how to attract them. With a 53% women to 47% men split most get their news from television and the internet. Newspapers are primarily read online and because they pay for satellite or have free resources like Spotify and Pandora for their music they are not often consuming information from the radio. Watching pay TV (Hulu, Netflix, etc..) and watching online videos YouTube,

etc..) consume a lot of their daily time.

This information means we already know where some resources we can share with tech savvy/ tech user candidates so they can learn more about who we are and what we do. resource we can share at events and when discussing the Grange with online users. Helping to share our mission and benefits or them to learn more about our organization could be very helpful to get who we are and our message out to everyone.

Why do they like to use online sources the most? This is a heavily research and debated topic but in my personal experience a cell phone is a pocket computer that gives you the convenience of viewing from almost any location. Great for multitasking and of course the immediate access. to information it is helpful for school and work.

To the benefit of the Grange on social media brands are embraced more readily. We have a brand and can use appropriate marketing online to attract "our" people. People with similar interests and needs. The millenials also embrace technology because with your cell phone you can pay and collect money direct to and from your bank account, communicate with friends and businesses in real time, they write read reviews to make purchase decisions or reviews of events, companies and even to research employment.

The interest in working

for and with not-for-profits along with a passion for hands on is volunteer work are what gives me hope we can all grow together. They, like many of us, have a passion for communities, children, elderly, animals and the environment.

How can we attract new members using this common ground? I believe the best approach is to take a charitable program you are already doing at your Grange, one that gives back to a certain area or group of people, then make it a bigger event by inviting more people to participate.

Put together an advertising plan to invite the community to help you reach a goal. People will be drawn to participate in an event that is asking for something more than a financial donation. These potential members can give like their time or something they can donate easily like things from their closet or garage. While the new helpers are coming in it is a chance to talk more about your program and how it helps the recipients and also to discuss the next event where you may need donations or help.

Gaining new members, people who may be stretched with commitments, its best to give them an invite, tell them how they might be able to help and give them the details. As they visit more frequently you can recommend they join. They are already showing commitment.

How do you get the message out that there is

Continued on page 11



IN THIS ISSUE...

Understanding Millennials.....	1 & 11
2019 Northeast Leaders Conference	3
Eastern Connecticut Pomona No. 14	7
Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15.....	8
Nutmeg Pomona No. 16	10

I ♥ GRANGE

**NEXT ISSUE...
Articles Due Jan. 15**

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

As mentioned last time, the National Grange has sent out its annual Bonding request for 2019. Letters with the forms and specifics about the program will be out in the Granges by the time you are reading this. PLEASE return your bonding payment and form to me at the Central Office as soon as you can but no later than the deadline listed in the letter. As I have said many times, the Connecticut State Grange pays for every Grange regardless of whether or not we have received your payment or not. It's a considerable amount of money to pay all at once, so your prompt payment is sincerely appreciated.

The numbers are much smaller, but we still have Granges who have not submitted Directory information for 2019. All have been notified and we will have to proceed without them. It's a shame to spend so much on printing the State Directory knowing there Granges listed with outdated information.

The Directors have been working hard and most of the necessary information has been received to print the Blue Book. We will have both publications out to you soon.

In the meantime, with the Bonding letter, Granges will be receiving a copy of the 2019 Legislative Policy Guide and a copy of the 2018 Journal of Proceedings (if they weren't picked up at State Session).

The State Master mentions Leaders Conference in his column, and I want to direct your attention to the registration form printed at right. The conference is open to ALL MEMBERS and we strongly encourage all Granges to have a representative at the conference. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Norwich, where the State Grange has now met for several years.

The room rates are the same as State Session and the meals will be just as great as they were in October. On Saturday morning we are also offering a Continental Breakfast for \$12.00 along with a buffet lunch and buffet banquet.

The conference will feature speakers and possible workshops. We are in the process of finalizing the content of the conference so a complete schedule will be made available to all Granges and in the CT Granger when available. Stay tuned!

Until next time... "Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right!"

2019 Northeast Leaders Conference

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(A complete schedule will be published when items are finalized)

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

Dinner on Friday is on your own. The hotel restaurant is available and there are many dining options located near the hotel.

5:00 P.M. Registration
7:00 P.M. Call the meeting to order
Welcome
Salute to the Flag
Introductions by
State Presidents/Masters
Announcements & Information
8:00 P.M. Workshop

- Family Activities/CWA
- Others that wish to meet
9:45 A.M. Break
10:30 A.M. Workshop
12:00 P.M. Southern BBQ Lunch Buffet
1:30 P.M. National Convention Report
2:00 P.M. Workshop
3:45 P.M. Break
4:00 P.M. Workshop
5:30 P.M. Break
6:30 P.M. Bella Roma Buffet Banquet
8:00 P.M. Community Service
Northeast Region Community Award:

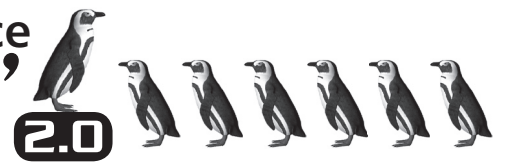
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

8:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast
9:00 A.M. Committee Breakout Sessions
- NE Grange Building Trustees
- Lecturers

- Firefighter/EMT
- Police Officer
- Educator
Closing Remarks



2019 Northeast Leaders Conference "Leading Leaders" 2.0



The Connecticut State Grange will host the 2019 Northeast Leaders' Conference **March 29 & 30, 2019** at the Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich, CT 06360. This year's theme is "Leading Leaders 2.0" and ALL Grange members are encouraged to attend. Enjoy workshops, speakers and an opportunity to connect with Grange members throughout New England and New York. Rooms should go quickly, so please make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible. The room rate is the same as State Session at \$105.00 per night (plus taxes/fees) for a King or 2 Queen bed room. Please call the Holiday Inn Norwich directly. Please DO NOT call the Holiday Inn corporate reservation line as they may not handle your reservations properly. **CALL (860) 889-5201** and ask for the Connecticut State Grange room block.

REGISTRATION FORM

Member #1:

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Grange Name _____ No. _____ State _____
State Office (if applicable) _____
I would like: _____ Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Banquet (___ Vegetarian Banquet Required)

Member #2:

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Grange Name _____ No. _____ State _____
State Office (if applicable) _____
I would like: _____ Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Banquet (___ Vegetarian Banquet Required)

Continental Breakfast (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Assorted danishes, croissants, muffins, bagels, breakfast breads, sliced fruits & yogurt, fruit preserves, butter & cream cheese, assorted fruit juices, freshly brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee, assorted teas and hot cocoa.

of Members _____ x \$12.00 = _____

Southern BBQ Lunch Buffet (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Buttermilk battered fried chicken breast, BBQ ribs, mashed potatoes, creamy cole slaw, buttered corn on the cob, freshly baked corn bread, freshly tossed garden greens with assorted dressings, warm apple crisp, assorted sodas, water, coffee and teas.

of Members _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Bella Roma Buffet Banquet (Saturday, March 30, 2019):

Freshly tossed Caesar salad, roasted vegetables & tortellini, roasted garlic bread sticks, chicken marsala, chicken parmesan, assorted sodas, water, coffee and tea, assorted cannolis & tiramisu.

of Members _____ x \$30.00 = _____

Registrations Due:
MARCH 1, 2019

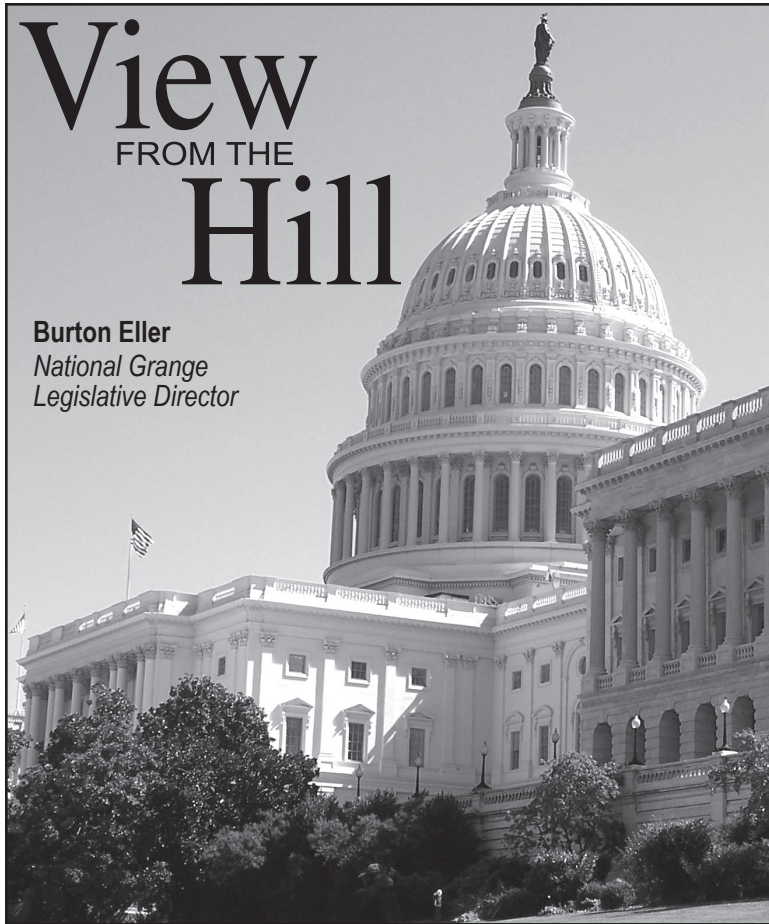
Registration Fee: # of Members _____ x \$10.00 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED WITH THIS FORM = _____

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

Mail to: Connecticut State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Questions: Please call the Central Office at 860-633-7550 or State Secretary Todd Gelineau on his cell at 860-307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org



View FROM THE Hill

Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Director

OVERVIEW:

Congress and the President have agreed to a two-week temporary spending measure through December 21 to avoid a federal government shutdown while honoring former President George H.W. Bush and negotiating final budgets for Homeland Security, Commerce Department, and Internal Revenue Service. This also gives some more time for a farm bill to pass.

The big news in Washington this November was all about the House of Representatives flipping from Republican to Democratic control starting in January, 2019. This will certainly change the dynamics on the Hill. Is it possible we could see more political compromise between parties to break the legislative log jam or will there be a growing House-Senate stalemate? It's possible the 2020 presidential election will shadow the legislative and political agendas of both parties the next two years and make compromise more difficult for the most part.

Look for the 2019 political climate in the House to shift into an investigations and oversight mode and increase attempts to change legislative priorities from the past two years. Most controversial legislation which passes the House will be dead on arrival in the Senate. The same will be true for controversial bills going from the Senate to the House. With such slim margins of majority in both bodies of Congress, any purely

partisan legislation will never make it to the President's desk.

ANALYSIS OF THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS:

The Politics

The nation saw 31 million more voters turn out to vote in 2018 than in the midterms of 2014. The House of Representatives will have 235 Democrats and 200 Republicans and the Senate will have 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats when the 116th Congress convenes January 3, 2019. Democrats picked up women's and suburban votes nationwide. New England, Mid-Atlantic and Pacific Northwest regions voted Democratic as well.

The Urban-Rural/Small Town Divide Deepens

Midterms highlighted a deeply divided electorate that reflects growing chasms along geographical and ideological lines. Suburban voters seemed to deliver a stern rebuke to President Trump as they ousted both Republican incumbents who embraced the President as well as those who distanced themselves from the President. On the other hand, rural voters showed up to the polls in unprecedented numbers and delivered on critical Republican Senate and gubernatorial elections in red states. Senate Democrats who lost their reelection bids saw their vote shares drop in rural areas.

The House Agenda for 2019

After eight years in the

minority, Democrats are making big plans. These include shoring up Obamacare, protecting Dodd-Frank financial rules, lobby reform, federal budget, health care, gun safety, infrastructure and immigration reform to name a few. Look for House committees to spend a great deal of time on oversight and investigations. They are vowing to aggressively probe the actions of the Trump Administration on energy, environment, homeland security, natural resources, foreign relations and several more.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE:

Farm Bill

Congress worked feverishly to complete the new farm bill prior to the December 7 expiration deadline for the current farm bill. Senate and House agriculture committee leaders as well as the Senate and House leadership all agreed to make passage of the farm bill a priority. Committee leadership and staff worked on the House and Senate bills' differences throughout the Congressional election period recess and announced December 1 that a final compromise had been agreed to. The farm bill's legislative language conference report was due to be filed December 4 and then go to the Senate and House for final approval. However, Congress postponed all votes for the week of December 3 to honor former President George H.W. Bush. Deliberations are expected to resume the week of December 10.

- During the congressional pause, aspects of the farm bill compromise began to hit the rumor mill. These include:
 - Enhancements to the Dairy Revenue Protection Program
 - Minimal changes to the SNAP program, leaving it to USDA to address state work waivers through regulations
 - Enhancements to the Conservation Reserve Program and maintaining the Conservation Security and Environmental Quality Improvement Programs as separate entities
 - Payment limitations largely mirror current law as do most of the farm program provisions

Cell-Cultured Meat

The livestock and poultry industries are very concerned with emerging technology that grows meat in the laboratory from animal, poultry and seafood cells rather than from

traditional agriculture. How the cell-cultured product is named, regulated and marketed has opened up a whole new food frontier between the Food and Drug Administration and USDA. After a public meeting and comment period, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb have agreed to share regulatory oversight. According to the agreement, FDA will oversee the collection, cell banks and cell growth. At the harvest stage, USDA will supervise the production and labeling of food products derived from the cells.

Dairymen Quick to Adopt Revenue Protection

The Dairy Revenue Protection Program, Dairy-RP, is an area-based quarterly insurance policy designed to protect against declines in revenue from milk sales. Dairy-RP is administered by USDA's Risk Management Agency and allows dairymen to purchase this insurance from a national network of licensed crop insurance agents. During its first month of availability, 673 policies covering 2.7 billion pounds of milk were purchased. The most active states so far have been Wisconsin, Idaho and California.

FDA Claims Jurisdiction on Animal Biotech

FDA is forging ahead to create a pathway to market for animal biotechnology-derived products even though some researchers say the agency is going too far by regulating gene-editing procedures in animals as if they are drugs. Gene-editing produces changes in animal genomes that would occur naturally in the species over time in contrast to genetic engineering which changes DNA with cells from outside the species.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Rural Broadband and Online Privacy

Washington's Morning Consult recently featured an article by National Grange President Betsy Huber that suggested rural broadband and online privacy go hand-in-hand. She states that solving the rural broadband problem will require federal policies to encourage broadband network deployment. But at the same time, she suggests part of the solution involves Congress crafting a better national policy to protect online privacy.

Recent high-profile online privacy scandals and the confusion consumers have on how to protect their data show the scope of this problem. At a minimum, new federal policy standards should apply across the internet. The same rules that govern websites and internet providers should govern search engines and advertising.

Transparency is also vital. Businesses on the web must offer clear and easily understood disclosures to a user about what personal data they collect, how it will be used and who will have access to it. In the event of a data breach, basic fairness dictates that consumers be informed immediately.

Congress should make expanding rural broadband access a top priority and part of that effort has to include a new uniform online privacy standard to protect the public and encourage creation of desperately needed services.

Microsoft Promises Rural Broadband

Microsoft has announced an initiative to bridge the rural broadband divide for three million people in remote parts of the country. Microsoft is already connected to a million users in sixteen states. The company says it will expand its reach to three million rural residents in nine additional states. Microsoft's technology uses unlicensed TV wireless spectrum or "TV white spaces" to travel long distances without experiencing interference from obstacles.

USDA Rural Broadband Plan Questioned

Public comments on USDA's 2017 Rural Broadband Pilot Program proposal say proposed speeds would not be fast enough and there's not enough focus on bandwidth. The Federal Communications Commission has set the standard definition of "broadband" at 25/3 Mbps. Many rural and small town businesses, consumers and community leaders believe broadband standards need to be 50/10 Mbps. Unfortunately, the USDA pilot program only calls for download speeds of 10 Mbps and upload speeds of 1 Mbps.

HEALTH CARE: Opioid Legislation becomes Law

Expansive opioid legislation that received overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress is now law following President Trump's signature. The new law improves access to treatment services by lifting certain restrictions on Medicaid and Medicare coverage, addresses the over-prescription of opioids, authorizes research into non-addictive drugs for pain management, has measures to curtail foreign shipments of illegal drugs to the United States and includes provisions aimed at preventing "doctor-shopping" by improving prescription monitoring by the states. The National Grange strongly supported this legislation.

Counterfeit Medicines Pose Real Threats

Continued on page 4

(USPS 563-220)

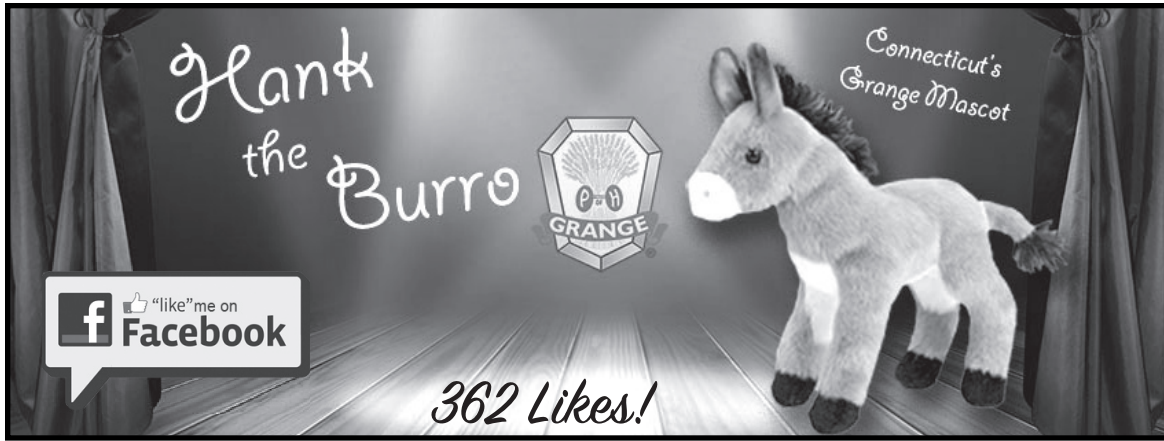
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or Todd Gelineau, Editor
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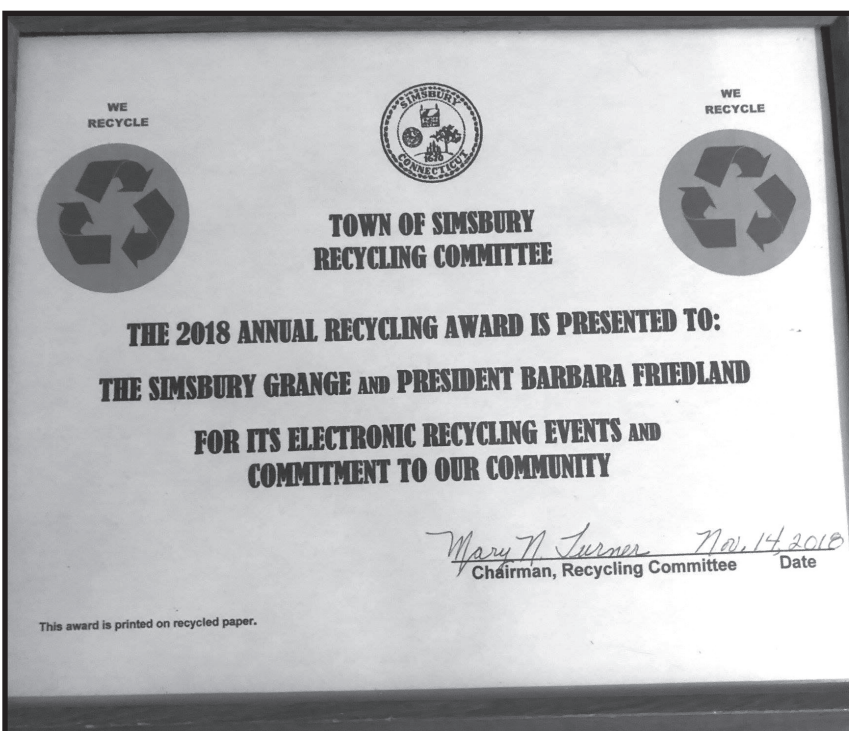


Hello Grange friends!

We are off and running! President George and First Lady Sharon set me up in my winter gear, a new hat and scarf, so I can be nice and warm as we travel the state. We went to Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange's meeting at Taghannock Grange the beginning of December where I got to hang out with new Pomona Master Peter Keefe (he's General Deputy too!) and then the next day we went to Bethlehem Grange (Memorial Hall) for George's reception. What a fun weekend with all my Grange friends! We also went to the Past Masters meeting in Cheshire where I got to hang out with friends from Enfield Grange. Then I had a wonderful time in the Russell home over the holidays with their six Grandchildren! Hope all of my friends had as nice of a time over the holidays as I did.

Please take a minute to follow the link to my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are too, then you can follow us on our Grange adventures in 2019. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Simsbury Grange receives Recycling Award



Thank you to the Simsbury Recycling committee for the 2018 Recycling Award! We are so proud to have recycled truckloads of old electronics with Green Monster Recycling and Boy Scout Troop #76!



Love for Lillian



Lillian Sharpe

The Connecticut State Grange Foundation is continuing to accept donations to the "Love for Lillian" fund. Please make checks payable to: Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. On the memo line, please write "Love for Lillian" and we will make sure 100% of the donation will go to the Sharpe family. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged with a 501(c)3 letter for tax filing purposes.

**CONNECTICUT
STATE GRANGE
FOUNDATION**



View from the Hill

Continued from page 3...

The *New York Times* recently described how a young man lost his life by unknowingly taking a counterfeit medicine laced with counterfeit fentanyl. The article included several alarming points:

- Criminal organizations are getting smarter and using social media to target potential victims
- Online pharmacies paint themselves as legitimate but many are far from it

Counterfeit medicines flood the online market

- The threat of counterfeits continues to grow

In just two months alone, the FDA cracked down on more than 50 web sites known to be selling unapproved or fake versions of opioids.

Pharmacist "Gag Orders" Banned

Most pharmacists haven't been able to give customers a clue about an easy way to save money on prescription drugs. That's going to change. When the cash price for a prescription is less than what you would pay using your insurance plan, pharmacists will no longer have to keep that a secret. The President has signed two bills which passed Congress almost unanimously that ban "gag order" clauses in contracts between pharmacies and insurance companies or pharmacy benefit managers. The National Grange worked for passage of these "gag order" bills.

Medical Device Tax

The National Grange is pushing the House and Senate to permanently repeal the medical device tax instead of voting for a short term suspension of the tax. Repeal of the tax will give medical technology innovators the incentive to revolutionize treatment of disease, better manage chronic health conditions and improve the quality of life for patients. Since the tax is levied on revenues, not profits, it is particularly challenging for smaller companies (80 percent of the industry and the source of much innovation) many of which generate revenue but may not make a profit.

Ag Hints: Best Herbs to Grow Indoors

Illustrations from Farm & Fork Society



Oregano

Origanum vulgare
Uses: vegetables, roast beef, lamb, chicken, pork, fish, stuffing, pasta, pizza, soup, bread



Basil

Ocimum basilicum
Uses: tomatoes, pesto, sauce, pizza, pasta, salad
Combine with: garlic parsley



Thyme

Thymus vulgaris
Uses: fish, poultry, soup, eggs, tomatoes, lamb, veal, croquettes
Combine with: parsley, bay, rosemary



Parsley

Petroselinum crispum
Uses: egg, fish, poultry, veal, pork, vegetables, potatoes, pasta, soup
Combine with: chives, chervil, tarragon (fines herbes), basil



Sage

Salvia officinalis
Uses: pork, poultry, lamb, sausage, stuffing, salad, cheese, vegetables, seafood, bread



Rosemary

Rosemarinus officinalis
Uses: lamb, pork, veal, chicken, potatoes, vegetables, squash, salad dressing, bread
Combine with: Italian herbs



Cilantro (Coriander)

Coriandrum sativum
Uses: mexican cuisine, salsa, soup, stew, chicken, rice, curry, avocado, tomato
Combine with: cummin

1. **OREGANO** is a perennial best propagated by root division. If you have an established plant just separate off a chunk and pot it up to bring indoors. New plants can be started from seed but may take a few months to reach a harvestable size.

2. **BASIL** is an annual so it is best to start new plants from seed or take cuttings from an established plant - they will root in water. Small-leaved varieties like dwarf Greek basil or 'Finissimo Verde' are best for windowsill culture.

3. **THYMES** such as caraway, lemon, narrow-leaved French, and English garden thyme are all good culinary types. They are perennials (though some may not be hardy where you live) and new plants can be divided from the parent plant.

4. **PARSLEY** is a biennial plant, which means that it goes to seed its second season. If you pot up an existing plant, use a deep container to avoid injuring the tap root. New plants can be started from seed.

5. **SAGE** is a perennial and can be grown from a softwood cutting or by division. If you want a more decorative plant than ordinary garden sage, try a tri-colored or golden one. Their flavor is not as pronounced but they grow better indoors.

6. **ROSEMARY** is a tender perennial. If you have an established plant outside you can take cuttings. Rosemary can be fussy. It will need bright light, a cool location, lots of air circulation, and frequent misting but the extra pampering is worth the effort, especially if it rewards you with its delicate blue blossoms.

7. **CILANTRO** is best started from seed but it grows fast. Use it before it flowers for the best flavor. Keep starting new plants from seed as needed.

- Cut back any plants that you are digging up to bring indoors. They will suffer a bit of shock and may take a while to adjust and start to regrow.
- Be sure to use a large enough pot to accommodate the rootball and remove as much of the old soil as possible to get rid of any insects or their eggs.
- Isolate them from your other houseplants for a few weeks and spray them every 3 to 7 days with a soapy water solution to kill off any hitchhiking pests.
- To encourage new growth, begin fertilizing the plants once you move them to your sunny windowsill.

Congress passes Farm Bill



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Last month I mentioned that one of the top priorities for the Grange was passage of the Farm Bill. There was a question if this could be accomplished during the Federal House and Senate lame duck session. Well, they recently passed a Farm Bill with bi-partisan support. The last Farm Bill took two years to pass. The bill includes language including nutrition programs, farmland preservation, dairy support programs, specialist block grants and crop insurance.

Reaction from the farming community and legislators seem to all be in favor of the bill. They did say that there are some areas that could be improved but that would be said of any bill passed.

The Agricultural Improvement Act or 'Farm Bill' authorizes the funding of many different farm

programs as well as federal nutrition programs. These programs had officially expired on September 30th and have been running with extensions.

The largest expense in the Farm Bill is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. The funding level is remaining the same as the previous bill. There was a recommendation that they add a work requirement for able bodied SNAP participants but that was removed. There is also funding to prioritize substance abuse recovery programs.

One measure that many feel can be an opportunity for agricultural growth in Connecticut is the expansion of industrial hemp production. The bill removed hemp and its derivatives from Controlled Substances and set it up under Agriculture. The bill set up guidelines on strength and sets the stage for developing guidelines for testing, inspections and disposal.

The Conservation portion of the bill sets aside more than \$6 billion for funding a diverse set of programs. One

program is the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) which works with the USDA and states to permanently protect prime farmland. The Farm Bill increased funding to \$450 million for the ACEP program over the next 5 years. The bill also incorporated some guidelines to simplify the process which expedites the preservation process.

The dairy section of the Farm Bill offers welcome relief for Connecticut dairy farmers. The last Farm Bill set up an insurance program that farmers had to buy into to protect against low milk prices. The farmers felt that this did not help much. The new Farm Bill reorganizes the program to the Dairy Margin Coverage Payment Program and reduces the cost to affordable premiums. It also offers incentives for dairy producers to pay farmers who donate surplus milk to charitable organizations.

Another plus for Connecticut is that the bill allows shellfish farmers access to crop insurance programs and services that were not previously available to them.

State Lecturer



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Thank you. I really appreciate all the cards and phone calls I received after the electrical fire at our house and my falling. Until you are in a situation like that it is hard to imagine what every single one means.

Your Northeast Lecturers are proud to announce that there will be a Lecturers' Conference this summer.

While plans are not yet complete I can tell you that it will be in Massachusetts and it will not be at a college. Our aim is for better accommodations and a lot less walking. There will also be a new format to the conference. As soon as I have some definite information, I will get it out to everyone.

The Essay Contest for 2019 is entitled "My Grange". Now might be a good time to start your entry. It must be 150 words or less. The second place winning entry from 2018 follows...

My Favorite Food

by Nancy Weissmuller

When I walked in the door, hungry for my lunch, and saw my Nana turning the handle on the shiny silver bucket held between her knees my heart would leap for joy. It meant that when I came home after school I'd be met by that lovely smell of baking bread when I opened the door. I would breathe in the aroma I loved so well until Nana, telling me to get out from under her feet, took the four golden loaves from the oven. Then, as I brought her the glass butter dish she would tell me (again) that I'd get a stomach ache if I ate warm bread. I loved to watch the butter melt into the thick slab she cut for me before I took my first, delicious bite. Then the next day I could have my favorite sandwich for lunch - tuna salad on Nana's homemade bread!

MAY YOU ALL HAVE A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Making Youth Connections

Dawn Anstett, Director

CT State Grange Youth Committee

As we begin the new year I would like to challenge all or our Community Granges to look at the Grange not just as a legacy we are carrying on, but as someplace where we can promote programs to be modern and youthful. For many years the youth grange motto has been improvement and change. I am asking you to take a look at increasing the value of the Grange for a generation who sees things different than most of our members and think about what would need to change to bring that value into our meetings, programs and conversations.

In addition to planning a New England Youth Conference for July of 2019 and the usual events the committee has worked on over the last several years, our biggest push will be in promoting active, contemporary and enthusiastic programs and events. Your Youth Committee would like to recognize ALL Community Members who get three or more new members between the ages of 14 and 35 to join your Grange. We also hope to present to the Member who brings in the most youth members with 1 year paid Community Grange Membership.

As a committee I am hoping we can develop a set of tools and resources for you to use to promote your Grange to today's youth. Staying the same is not going to increase our value, in the eyes of today's youth, young adults and families. There is value in legacy and there are ways of pairing it with more contemporary programs. Embracing social media is one way to get our message of who we are out there but if the message is not directed toward youth they may not see it. Design active events and programs. Have fun with it but also be aware of the differences in how we perceive things. We are encouraging you to listen and not lecture. Step back and have a conversation. Be open to change. Note what interests them first then let them know what we do, that might interest them.

Fate of former Bridgewater Grange building still uncertain



From Voices News.com

A new chain link fence was placed around the condemned former Bridgewater Grange building in mid-November. Bridgewater First Selectman Curis Read commented that the town is still waiting for a report from the State Historic Preservation Office on the building, but in the meantime was asked not to knock it down. Several area residents, who hope to save the building, circulated a petition in August to avoid demolition. The Grange building has oil contamination underneath the foundation that needs to be removed due to environmental and potential pollution concerns to nearby businesses.

Save the date

APRIL 28-MAY 1
NATIONAL GRANGE 2019
LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

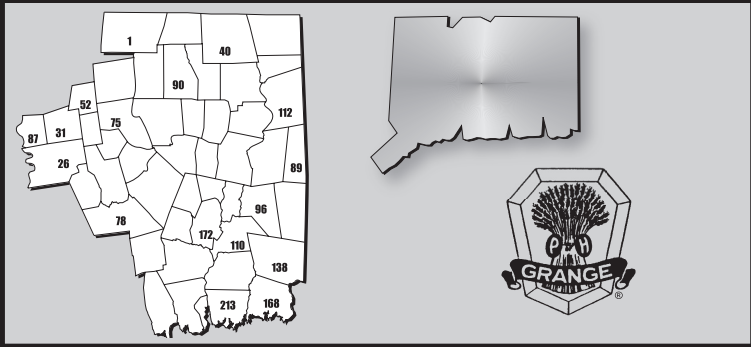
WINDOW TO THE PAST

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 solve 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.



There were no answers to last month's picture.

E. Connecticut Pomona No. 14



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Stafford No. 1 | Ashford No. 90 |
| Glastonbury No. 26 | Pachaug No. 96 |
| Manchester No. 31 | Preston City No. 110 |
| Senexet No. 40 | Killingly No. 112 |
| Vernon No. 52 | N. Stonington Comm. No. 138 |
| Coventry No. 75 | Stonington No. 168 |
| Colchester No. 78 | Norwich No. 172 |
| Hillstown No. 87 | Groton No. 213 |
| Ekonk Community No. 89 | |

SENXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Feb. 7: Meeting 7:30 p.m. Be My Valentine Refreshments: PotLuck Desserts
Feb.16: Monti Carlo Whist 7:00 p.m.

We had a very nice “catered” Christmas Dinner for our Dec. 6th meeting. We collected children’s books for the Glastonbury Social Service Department and also non-perishable food items.

The Town of Glastonbury is also raising funds for a K9 program.. At our meeting we voted to send a check of \$100.00 in to the town for that program. We also voted to send a contribution to the CT State Grange Foundation for the Love for Lillian program. In late November we presented Dictionaries to the 3rd grade class at the Nayaug Elementary School.

We have received some nice “thank you” notes from the students. The following is one of them.

“Dear Glastonbury Grange”, I loved that you got us those dictionaries. I can not thank you enough for them. I would have never ever known about the longest word in the english language, or what the big words mean. I’ve never owned a dictionary until you came. Thanks again, sincerely Hunter!!
 Another one -
 Dear Glastonbury Grange Thank you for the dictionary. I learned a lot of new words. I’m am completely addicted to the dictionary. I love my dictionary because they have the word supercalifr

agilisticexpialidocious.

SENXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Cherie Robinson

We have been busy this fall with regular meetings.

In November, we made and sold over 100 pies for the Thanksgiving sale fundraiser. Thanks to all who helped, especially Ciri Miller, UConn freshman who gave up some of her break.

We were saddened to hear of the death of longtime member Shirley Wilbur on Oct. 12.

We had a special election for members of the Executive Committee. Carol Smith for 2 years and Paul Horanzy for 3 years.

We submitted our food service application to the Northeast Dept. of Health.

We received a request from the local DAR requesting canceled stamps for the Wounded Veterans Project.

The CWA attended the regional CWA meeting in Hillstown Grange.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Jan. 4: New Year, New You
Feb. 1: Happy Chinese New Year- The Year of the Pig

Our Craft Nights were a success! Fun and productive, we made holiday decorations for two local nursing homes. Our December meeting was festive and fun, with the singing of Christmas carols, learning their background, then our “Wacky gift exchange”. The gifts were certainly wacky, and brought many laughs.

We let our Grangers, both near and far, know we are thinking of them even though they cannot make it to meetings by sending Christmas cards to them.

January’s Lecturer’s topic will be ‘New Year, New You’. We will also have a Craft Night to assemble towel and soap sets for Valentine’s Day gifts for formerly homeless veterans who are now living in Chrysalis House in Vernon and Stafford.

We are collecting donations of new, unused bath towels for this project.

Happy Chinese New Year in February. We will celebrate The Year Of The Pig with a surprise guest speaker!

We welcome visitors. Our meeting place is handicap accessible but in this season of snow and ice, please check to be sure our meeting is as scheduled.

Happy New Year from Vernon Grange.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange is holding a Pancake Breakfast and Grandma’s Attic Sale on Saturday, January 5, 2019, doors open at 8:30 AM and the Grange will be cooking and selling until 11:00AM. Breakfast of P a n c a k e s including sausage, coffee, tea and juice, all for just \$5, \$3 for kids 14. This month’s special is blueberry pancakes with winter surprise sauce.

Grandma’s Attic and Jon’s Book sale will be open during breakfast. Please help us clean up the attic with special bag pricing on books and household items. A table game area has been added for all to come and relax before or after breakfast. Come to browse, eat, or just visit the historic Hillstown Grange

Hill. Free Admission. Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. For more information on this event: Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com. For more information on Hillstown Grange, visit the Grange’s website at www.HillstownGrange.org.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Thanks to Verna Cole for Chairing the most successful supper in the 120 years our Grange has existed! Our Turkey Supper satisfied the appetites of nearly 400 hungry folks and our Grange was proud to gift slightly over \$5,000.00 to the Sharpe family towards non-insurance expenses ongoing as Lillian Sharpe bravely battles Leukemia. Our Christmas Bazaar was a great financial success; great food in the Grange kitchen and lots of wonderful vendors made for a very satisfying day! Many from Ekonk participated in part or all of National Grange session. Link Cooper accepted our 7th annual Distinguished Grange Award at National. The Cameron family worked diligently throughout National Grange and we are sure they breathed great sighs of relief when Saturday night of session ended. J. Allen Cameron did an exceptional program in December, educating us on GMO’s and answering numerous questions. January 25th will be our annual Ekonk Junior & Subordinate Grange Game Night, beginning at 6:00 p.m. February 15th, our Juniors will have lots of fun at their annual Fun Night, which begins at 6:00 p.m. Then in March, our suppers begin once again, with

corned beef and cabbage March 16th! Visit us any first Monday at 7:30 p.m. or our Juniors any first Friday at 6:00 p.m. Abbey Dexter, Junior Vice President, has stepped up to the plate graciously filling in for her dear friend and Junior Grange President, Lillian Sharpe. Great job, Abbey!

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Jan. 11: “Pedal Power” Trikes, Bikes and Motorbikes
Jan. 25: Snow Date for Jan. 11

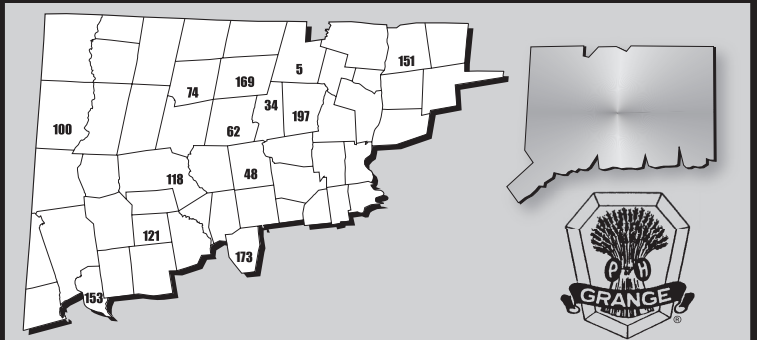
Cheree and Jason Miner, Elisha and Morgan Riley and Nancy Weissmuller had fun shopping for our eight Thanksgiving families. Thanks to Morgan our families enjoyed some chocolate sweets this year along with the staples. Many thanks to Fred Leary for replacing the cranky clock over our piano. The new one looks (and works) great!

There are so many members on the DL (baseball fans know that dreaded term) there is not room in these 200 words to list them. Suffice it to say that we send get well wishes to all of them and hope to see them up and about soon.

Sue put on a very enjoyable program on “Horsepower” that had Jason sitting among the contents of a covered wagon in the middle of the hall floor – a graphic illustration that had us wondering how all of it could possibly fit in one wagon. Her next program will be as interesting, we are sure. Please come. We meet only once in January and February to accommodate the idiosyncrasies of our New England weather. And if Santa will just remember to fill our stockings this year next time I’ll tell you about delightful December.



Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15



Granby No. 5	Bethlehem No. 121
Cawasa No. 34	Enfield No. 151
Whigville No. 48	Bridgewater No. 153
Eureka No. 62	Riverton No. 169
Winchester No. 74	Wolcott No. 173
Taghannuck No. 100	Simsbury No. 197
Beacon No. 118	

MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 2: Meeting, location TBD, 4 P.M. (Sat.)

June 1: Meeting, location TBD, 4 P.M. (Sat.)

Aug. 31: Meeting, location TBD, 4 P.M. (Sat.)

Dec. 1: Meeting, location TBD, 2 P.M. (Sun.)

Mountain Laurel Pomona held a wonderful Christmas Meeting in December at Taghannuck Grange Hall in Sharon. The program by Lecturer Lin Erickson was entertaining and a lot of fun and all enjoyed their grab bag gifts. We have printed the 2019 meeting schedule for the Pomona as we know it today. Locations for all four meetings are yet to be determined so please watch this space in the Grange for updates. At least you can “pencil in” these dates on your 2019 calendars. In the meantime, everyone at Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15 wishes you a wonderful New Year!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Jan. 8: 2019!, Ref. Marie & Jim Steiner

Jan. 22: Brrr! (Country Store), Ref. Pam Wright & Donald Fancher

Feb. 12: Hearts & Flowers, Ref. Potluck, 6:00 P.M.

Feb. 26: USA, Ref. Kim & Randy Carlson

Winchester Grange had a nice Christmas meeting and program on December 11 with the always popular Christmas Grab Bag of gifts.

Our next meeting will be about the new year - - “2019” and the following meeting on Jan. 22 will be about, well, the most popular topic these days – how cold it is.... Brrr! The meeting will be followed by refreshments, of course, and a Country Store. Please join us!

Winchester Grange is pleased to report that we will be taking in two additional new members in the coming weeks... and they actually ASKED US to join! Who does that these days??? We will have more on this in the next issue.

Until next time, stay warm!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 12: Resolutions

Feb. 9: Who were The Shakers?

This year the frost on the pumpkin came earlier than usual, so old man winter is getting ready for his annual appearance and we can only hope he goes easy on us. Our Ugly Christmas Sweater competition was a lot of fun. First place went to Charlene Markowski. There was a tie for second place between Dawn and Irene Percoski, and third place went to Richard Ference. It was voted to do again next year. Our new project this year will be for a local group that helps seniors keep their pets when the cost of care and food become too much for them and they are faced with giving up their pet. The group will help pay for food and medicine. They will provide transportation and payment to veterinarians, and assist with relocating pets when they must be given up.

In January we will work on several resolutions that we hope to pass on to Pomona. Bundle up and stay warm.

Enfield gets “ugly”



Members of Enfield Grange #151 gather for a group photo showing off their “ugliest” Christmas sweaters at a recent meeting.

Social Connection

At State Session I said we would announce the Granger of the Year at the December meeting of the Past Deputies Association and publish the name in the December issue of the Connecticut Granger as the recipient was not in attendance. Guess part of this was a lie. The announcement was made at the Past Deputies meeting but as this meeting was held after the December Granger was distributed we had to wait to this issue.

I am pleased to announced that Barbara Robert of Bethlehem Grange is the 2018 “Granger of the Year.” Those who know Barbara know how much she does for the Grange – her Subordinate, the Pomona and as a member of the Social Connection. I can attest for what she does for everyone personally. I have received many of her acts of kindness. Barbara is truly deserving of this award.

Granger Shout Out



Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org
Mail to: P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, Connecticut 06069



**To Ekonk’s Shelley Cameron
who was a Marching
Candidate at
National Grange**



**To Jody Cameron,
Chairman Hosting
Committee when National
Grange was in VT!**



**To Ekonk’s President,
Link Cooper, who was
awarded a Quilt of Valor
at National Grange for his
years of military service**



**To Ekonk’s
Leukemia Warrior,
Lillian Sharpe!**



PR Goals for the New Year

Terri Fassio, PR Co-Director

2019 is not only a new year but a new opportunity to get your Grange into the eyes of your local community. Here are some tips to keep in mind when planning out your upcoming Grange year.

- Is your community aware that your Grange exists? Don't be afraid to tell your Grange story.

Granges have a number of sources available to promote their events, programs and activities - such as press releases to the local media, social media outlets like Facebook, and more traditional methods like posters, signage, and even face-to-face and telephone communications. But when promoting your Grange, are you telling its story? How many years has your Grange been organized? Are there specific projects/events that your Grange is known for (like your Fair, Bazaar, Dairy Dinner, Community Service projects, etc.)? Be sure to take every opportunity to tell your Grange story. It can be as easy as a paragraph at the end of a press release, a "throw-back Thursday" photo posted to Facebook, or a line at the bottom of poster.

- Take a proactive approach. Don't wait for publicity to come to you.

Media outlets have hundreds of organizations just like the Grange vying for space and airtime. Chances are, they will not just stumble upon your Grange and promote it - you have to initiate the contact. Invite the media to a Grange meeting or event. Send a quick e-mail to your local newspaper promoting your upcoming activities - just be sure to give them at minimum 3 weeks notice. Even a quick phone call can be the difference between press coverage versus no press coverage.

- Don't be overwhelmed. Simplify your approach and cut through the clutter.

Promoting your Grange can be overwhelming when you don't know what direction to turn first. You have a list of newspapers, a Facebook Page or a website you are not comfortable using, and no real computer skills to speak of - so where do you start? Begin by taking a step back, and selecting one path on which to concentrate your efforts. Once you feel confident in writing press releases, then move on to adding Facebook to the mix. Then proceed to a website. Try taking a computer class to learn the basics. Most towns offer beginner computer classes either for free or for a small fee through adult ed or in senior centers. Look into your options, take it one step at a time, and eliminate the frustration.

- Stay organized and be prepared.

In order to go the extra mile when promoting your Grange, you need to be knowledgeable of the organization, ready to answer any questions that may arise, and be armed with the details. When writing your press releases and announcements, try to include as much relevant information as available. This includes writing your Grange column for the Connecticut Granger. We've all read the reports that announce the Grange's latest fun event, but leave out important details, like time and cost. Don't let the reader guess - tell them everything they need to know upfront.

Staying organized is the key to success. Keep a log of when you submit press releases, and set reminders in your calendar for follow-up. Schedule your Facebook posts in advance, so that your page is updated consistently. Create a folder in your e-mail to save important messages avoiding accidental deletion. Keep print-outs in a 3-ring binder of your publicity efforts for each event. No matter the method(s) you choose, effective organization efficiently creates the best results.

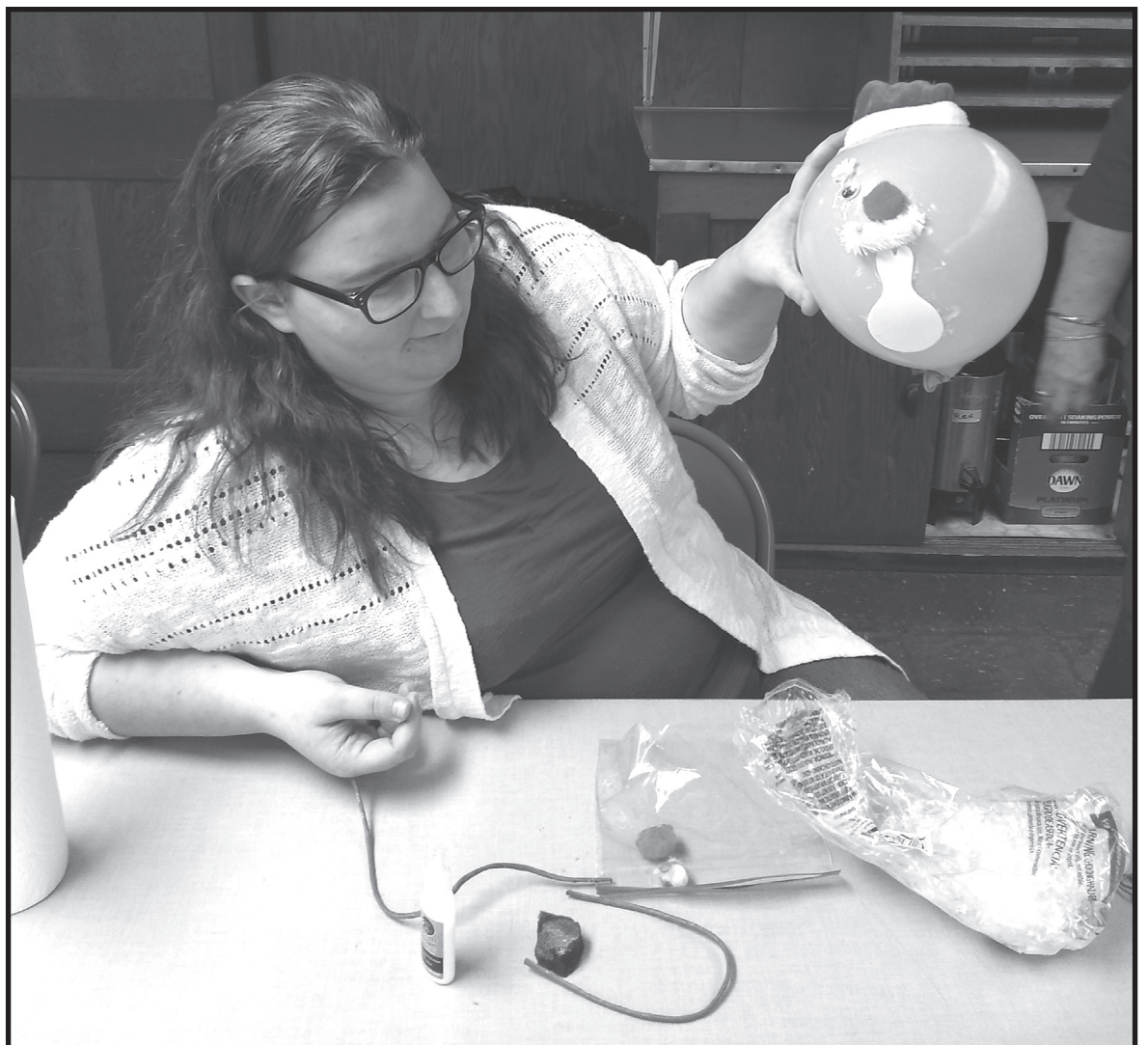
Public Relations and communications can play an integral part in your Grange's journey. Be sure to utilize available resources and most importantly, set achievable goals to build toward.

Need more information, or would like a hand in getting started? Drop us a line. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

CSG Past Deputies



Above, State Master George Russell and below, State Gatekeeper Jaimie Cameron show their stuff in a craft contest at the Christmas meeting of the Connecticut State Grange Past Deputies held at Cheshire Grange Hall.



So. CT Past Masters

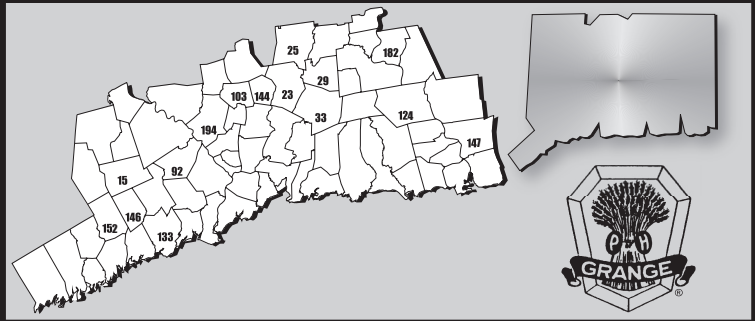
The January meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at a meeting place to be determined. I can't say as always we will have a potluck dinner at 6:30 as our last two meetings we have enjoyed pizza at one and grinders the other. But I can say we will have a program and country store.

The program is in the charge of Vice President Cindy Legg and is entitled "Getting in Shape" so we will probably be having salad.

Robert Buck, President will preside over the meeting which will start as soon as the dishes are done.

Visitors are always welcome.

NUTMEG POMONA No. 16



Redding No. 15	Greenfield Hill No. 133
Cheshire No. 23	Prospect No. 144
Southington No. 25	Norfield No. 146
Meriden No. 29	Lyme No. 147
Wallingford No. 33	Cannon No. 152
Harmony No. 92	Hemlock No. 182
Beacon Valley No. 103	Oxford No. 194
Higganum No. 124	

NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona #16 met at Beacon Valley Grange on December 2nd. Attendance was good. Hopefully we will have members from some of the other Granges attend in the future as we all get used to this new agenda.

Our next meeting will be held at Cheshire Grange on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. Mark your calendar and save the date. The program for this meeting is entitled "Has Spring Sprung Yet?" With the weather we have been having, I'm sure we will all be looking forward to spring. Refreshments are in the charge of Redding and Harmony Granges.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Jan. 2: Trivia Night

Jan. 16: Surprise

Several of our members distributed Christmas remembrances to our shut in members and others. Some 20 bags of Christmas items were distributed.

We enjoyed the Nutmeg Pomona Christmas meeting and program as well as our own on December 19th.

All of us at Cheshire Grange hoped you all enjoyed the Holidays, and now we look forward to the new year moving our Grange's forward.

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

January's meeting to be scheduled. Information forthcoming. Harmony Grange has had interruptions in their meetings for the past few months because of renovations to the lower level of the hall. However,

the major portions were completed in time to allow the Grange to hold the annual Christmas Boutique/Fair. This event was a great success because attendance was excellent, food was purchased, silent auction well received, and many Christmas items purchased from the tables on which these items were displayed. Renovations included a new drop ceiling, new heat ducts, heat registers and recessed lights. Painting of the lower section will also be scheduled now that the lower section can be heated. Those attending the Fair were privileged to observe the new improved looks.

A big thanks to all those who set up the Fair on short notice and worked on the day of the Fair. Set-up was hectic because renovations were being completed in the same week.

Harmony Grange wishes everyone a happy, health, and prosperous New Year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our schedule for January is not as hectic as December. It's hard to schedule too many activities in January because of the uncertainty of the weather.

Our January meeting is on Friday, January 11. Program "Happy New Year – New Beginning" in the charge of Lecturer Judi Reynolds. Show date is January 25th.

Thinking positive – Ron Fischer has still scheduled an Open Mic which we have the third Saturday of the month from 2 to 5. Good music and snacks.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Lori & Jim Golias

Our 125th year is winding down. 2018 was a exciting year at our Grange. Along with our 125th celebration in April we held a variety of fundraisers. We hosted an Italian night, celebrated St. Patrick's Day with Corned Beef And Cabbage, ended the Summer with our first ever Lobster Bake — with entertainment by Mike Kachuba, CT State Troubadour, and in December held an all you can eat pasta night.

We also hosted a Spring Boutique and. Holiday Boutique.

At our November meeting, we gave thanks and celebrated our friendship with a Thanksgiving dinner. We had Turkey and all the fixin's with each member bringing their signature dish.

Our Agricultural Fair was a great success. Our 2019 fair will be held on September 14th. Save the date!

Thank you to all our committees and volunteers who helped throughout the past year. Thank you to Jim Golias and Pam Deegan for cleaning the walls. Thank you to Jim Golias, Pam Deegan and Nancy Olson for sprucing up the tables with fresh paint. Many thanks to ALL who helped take care of the building and/or grounds and at our events.

Thank you for all donations made to the Grange throughout the year. Your generosity is much appreciated.

As the winter winds begin to blow, we would like to take time to extend our gratitude and wishes to all. May peace be upon your homes and may health and happiness abound in 2019. Happy New Year from the Greenfield Hill Grange.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Prospect Grange was saddened to lose our Lecturer Tina Meehan to cancer. Tina was a very active member of the Grange until her illness.

She was a former member of the Rose Drill Team and very active in community projects.

Our Chaplain, Frances Maxwell, had a stroke and is unable to attend meetings. Another big loss.

We held our annual Christmas Party at the Station with nine members and two guests in attendance. Good food and friendship was enjoyed by all. Santa left gifts for all.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month weather permitting at the Prospect Community Center.

We voted on our community service projects for the year and are going hed on into serving our community.

Dictionaries were handed out to the third graders for the 19th year. The teachers and children look forward to getting the dictionaries each year. This is one of our favorite community projects.

We hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. We look forward to the new year.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Feb. 7: CWA Projects announced for this year.

Mar. 7: March Winds – Snow or Rain.

Apr. 4: Hope will not have water problems.

On a very cold night and a lot of warm hearts we held our annual Christmas dinner with roast pork, chicken with rice and a lot of yummy side dishes and, of course, great desserts. Twenty brave people attended and 14 stayed for the meeting.

News is brief – we sang carols, played games and a good time was had by all.

Amy Winger was presented her notebook from last year's community service. Thanks to Amy's hard work collaborating material, Lyme earned third place in the over 50 member category.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and the new year will be happy and healthy for all.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Donald Offinger

Jan. 3: Business Meeting - 7 PM

Jan. 10: Fair Planning Meeting - 7 PM

Jan. 17: Business Meeting - 7 PM

Feb. 7: Business Meeting - 7 PM

We enjoyed an informative program on Sous Vide, a fascinating cooking method presented by Bil Mikulewicz's wife, Sarah. During the demonstration she provided samples of turkey, beef, pork and vegetables to sample and taste. A variety of recipes and resources, along with displayed equipment to make cooking in this method a success, were provided to the members and guests in attendance.

Starting off in early January, a Fair planning committee is organizing to get things underway with what will be our 86th anniversary Agricultural Fair. 2019 will also mark our Grange's 120th anniversary as well as the age of our historic Hall; both having come to life in 1899.

Party rentals are coming in, as they help keep us in financial good health. We're hoping to host an evening of Silent Movies in March, but don't have our date settled yet.

For those people who enjoy raising mushrooms at home with a kit, now is the time to get them ordered and going! Nothing more tasty than fresh sauteed mushrooms.

Cannon Grange Hall is a heart-safe (i.e. we have an AED onsite) and gun-free premise. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 11: January Thaw

Jan. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Feb. 8: Groundhog Valentine

Feb. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

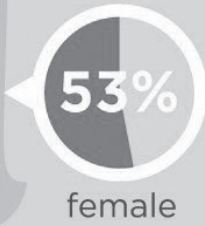
Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

MILLENNIALS & MEDIA CONSUMPTION

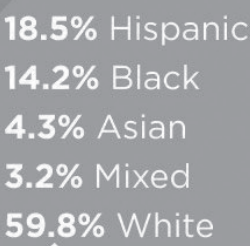
WHO ARE THE MILLENNIALS?



GENDER BREAKDOWN



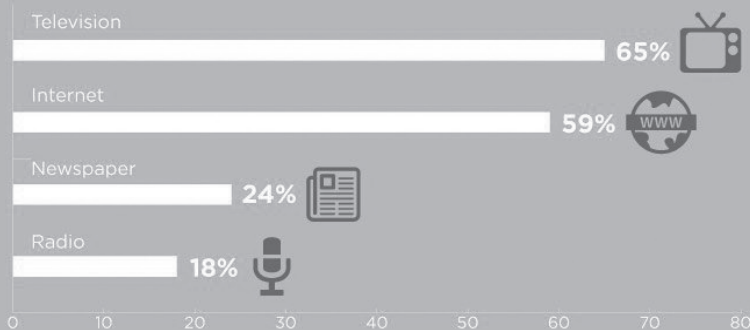
RACE BREAKDOWN



This is an all-time record low!

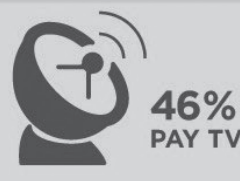
MAIN NEWS SOURCE

It wasn't too long ago that newspapers and radio were the leading news sources. This technology friendly generation prefers to find their news elsewhere:

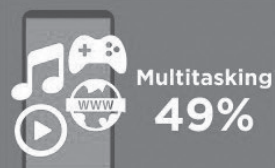


MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

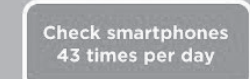
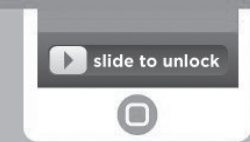
The millennial generation takes media consumption and engagement to an all-time high.



WHY ARE MILLENNIALS CHOOSING ONLINE VIEWING?



SOCIAL MEDIA AND MOBILE ENGAGEMENT



Understanding millennials

Continued from page one...

an event you need help with using social media at least in part? You can post it on Facebook and ask members and friends to share. Posting on Facebook is not enough alone, the algorithms make it tough for many following your grange facebook to be seen, So you should also share with friends and family on pages and in messages. When possible tag any other organizations who may be participating with your Grange.

Let me sum this up with an example. Busytown Grange collects donations for the local animal shelter every year. They collect food, blankets and towels, cat treats and toys, litter and gift cards to pet supply stores. Each year it is a success because it comes from Grange members and friends and family. Busytown chooses a day to collect donations, sort them and deliver them to the animals and this year they are advertising the event and welcoming all to donate and volunteer with collection and delivery.

The Grange secretary posts the date and animal shelter needs on the Facebook page for the Grange and everyone with a Facebook account agrees to share the message. They post it publically on their personal page and some send it privately. They also send it via email to people they may know. For the members who are more active online they may post this info on the garage sale or community pages when posts like this are accepted. This would be done about a month before the event and then done again 2 weeks before and again within days of the event.

Busytown Grange sets up for the event as usual but this year there are many new faces. Grangers ask people how they hear about the event and thank them for the donations. New participants can be given an information brochure about the grange and welcomed to follow on whichever social media outlets are active for their specific Grange. If possible it is always good to mention the next event where volunteers or donations may be helpful.

Once everything is collected and totalled and brought to the animals it is just as important to brag, erm, share the success just as diligently online as you were when you asked for help. People who feel included and useful like to continue to participate in the group that gives them a nice warm welcome and hank you. Creating new Grangers can be as simple as that. Let us remember that even the poorest financially has something to guve and wants to contribute to making the world a better place for all. If they can not give wit their money, they should know how wealthy they are to give us their time.

I am always willing to brainstorm with you about events and how to make them more successful and get new participants and potential members.

My Sister's Place

Dear Friends,

Your generous gift to My Sisters' Place means a great deal to us. Your contribution of \$360.00 received 11/1/18 is greatly appreciated and will assist us in serving the men, women and children in our care.

For over 35 years, My Sisters' Place has established itself as a safe haven for mothers and children needing shelter from the storm. When they arrive at My Sisters' Place, they bring only the clothes they have on their back. We provide the warmth of a home, clothing, diapers, formula, and supportive services to help them weather the storm.

Our highly qualified staff and case managers not only provide support for the women and children in our care, they also serve as mentors and advocates. The strong message they receive is, "They are loved and they matter."

Thank you again for your generosity. Our mission would be impossible without support from friends such as you.

Yours truly,
Judy Gough
CEO

My Sisters' Place, Inc.



Old Fashioned Bread Pudding

The holidays are over, but you are still craving something sweet, yet warm and comforting to indulge in. Betty Crocker has an easy to make Bread Pudding that is not only yummy, but perfect for that next potluck at Grange.

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups milk	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup butter or margarine	6 cups soft bread cubes (about 6 slices bread)
2 eggs, slightly beaten	1/2 cup raisins, if desired
1/2 cup sugar	Whipping (heavy) cream, if desired
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon or nutmeg	

DIRECTIONS:

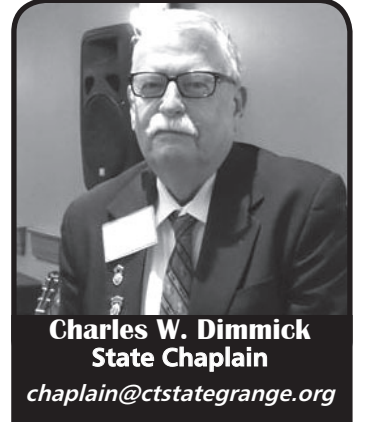
Heat oven to 350°F. In 2-quart saucepan, heat milk and butter over medium heat until butter is melted and milk is hot. In large bowl, mix eggs, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Stir in bread cubes and raisins. Stir in milk mixture. Pour into ungreased deep round pan. Bake uncovered 40 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted 1 inch from edge comes out clean. Serve warm with whipping cream.

SOURCE: <https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/old-fashioned-bread-pudding/790f3338-59c6-4312-a3c1-3e4d0cf6b101>

In Memoriam

Loretta Wood	Senexet #40
Marguerite Moran	Prospect #144
Tina Meehan	Prospect #144

Listen to God's Voice



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Many, if not most, of us have had the experience of being in a restaurant or other public place with a friend where the background noise was so loud that you could not hear what your friend was saying. Also a common problem for some of us is the experience of being so absorbed in what you are doing, reading a book or concentrating on a problem, that you are not aware of the fact that someone else is trying to get your attention. Or, what I'm seeing more and more of among some of our younger people, they have something plugged into their ear, listening to some mechanical device, such that they don't hear you.

Our relationship with God has similar problems. We tend to be so absorbed in the activities of our daily lives that we don't hear God speaking to us. God is speaking, but we don't hear him, either because we are not paying attention, or because the "noise" of what is going around about us drowns out God's voice or distracts us from hearing. Most of the time what God is saying only becomes clear if we can get away from the noise of the world. Do you remember the story of Elijah after he fled the wrath of Jezebel and fled to the caves of Mt. Carmel? In 1 Kings 19 we read:

"Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.¹ After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave."

The voice of the Lord came to Elijah in a gentle whisper. From time to time, perhaps even daily, we need to escape from the noise and tumult of the world and find a place and a time when and where we can hear the gentle whisper of God's word. A final word of advice: you cannot hear God's voice if you spend all your time with him telling him what you want instead of being quiet and hearing what he wants you to do.

Exploring Traditions

These essays by Walter Boomsma unpack the teachings of the Grange and relate them to today's world and our everyday lives," writes National Master Betsy Huber. Many people, including Grange members themselves seem to be wondering about the relevance of this 150 year old organization in modern society. They may find some answers in Exploring Traditions—Celebrating the Grange Way of Life, a series of essays encouraging readers to understand the basis of Grange ritual and tradition. This is not a "guide to the Grange," it truly is an exploration of some of the words and actions found in the Grange ritual and tradition. Included are the Grange Mission Statement and Declaration of purposes, allowing readers to take

away from the book a new and deeper understanding of the Grange—not merely as an historical organization, but also an organization that teaches a way of life that aligns us with nature and creates community.

The book is \$14.95 plus shipping & handling and is available by visiting NationalGrange.org and clicking on the Grange Store section of the website.



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