

**PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**124<sup>th</sup> Session**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE**  
Patrons of Husbandry



**CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT**  
**OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 2008**

**OFFICERS & COMMITTEES  
CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE  
2007-2008**

<b>Master</b> .....	<b>Robert Sendewicz</b> 2 Cole Place, Danbury 06810
<b>Overseer</b> .....	<b>Jody A. Cameron</b> 11 Lake St., Moosup 06354
<b>Lecturer</b> .....	<b>Margaret Bernhardt</b> 424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire 06410
<b>Steward</b> .....	<b>Jeffrey Barnes</b> 121 Stillman Rd., Ext. , N. Stonington 06359
<b>Assistant Steward</b> .....	<b>Noel Miller</b> 150 Ripley Hill Rd., Coventry 06238
<b>Lady Assistant Steward</b> .....	<b>Cynthia Finch</b> 101 Bacon Rd., Roxbury 06783
<b>Chaplain</b> .....	<b>Amy Whitcomb</b> Box 4, Cornwall 06753
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	<b>Philip Bergquist</b> 348 N. Salem Rd., Ridgefield 06877
<b>Secretary</b> .....	<b>Edith Schoell</b> Office ..... 769 Hebron Ave., P.O. Box 6517, Glastonbury 06033 Home ..... 1750 Tolland Tpke., Manchester 06042
<b>Gatekeeper</b> .....	<b>George Russell</b> 63 New St., Canaan 06018
<b>Ceres</b> .....	<b>Eloise Osuch</b> 41 Hickory Lane, Bethlehem 06751
<b>Pomona</b> .....	<b>Jodi Ann Cameron</b> 11 Lake St., Moosup 06354
<b>Flora</b> .....	<b>Carol Hnath</b> 419 Boston Hollow Rd., Ashford 06278
<b>Pianist</b> .....	<b>Huena Wetmore</b> 904 Shepard Ave., Hamden 06514

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>2008</b> .....	<b>Gordon Gibson</b> 842 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon 06066
<b>2009</b> .....	<b>F. Philip Prelli</b> 12 Alexandria Drive, Barkhamsted 06063
<b>2010</b> .....	<b>A. Ruel Miller</b> 90 Brook Lane, Cheshire 06410
<b>Legislative Director</b> .....	<b>Gordon Gibson</b> 842 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon 06066
<b>Women's Activities Director</b> .....	<b>Betty Jane Gardiner</b> 15 Meadowlark Rd., W. Simsbury 06092
<b>General Deputy</b> .....	<b>Robert Buck</b> 116 N. Georges Hill Rd., Southbury 06488
<b>Junior Director</b> .....	<b>Joan Perry</b> P.O. Box 13, Woodstock 06281

# RECORDS OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell  
October 16, 17, 18, 2008

## Pre-Session Banquet - Wednesday, October 15, 2008

The Pre-Session Banquet opened with Robert Sendewicz, State Master, welcoming all to the 124th Session of the Connecticut State Grange. He introduced the head table, Amy Whitcomb, Chaplain; Jody Cameron, Overseer; Jodi Ann Cameron, Pomona; Dean Gregory Weidemann, of the School of Agriculture at UConn; Philip Prelli, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Marge Sendewicz.

Following the Invocation by State Chaplain, Amy Whitcomb, the Star Spangled Banner was sung.

The speaker for the evening, Dean Weidemann spoke of the programs at the college as well as the pains for the future as agricultural changes are happening in the state.

John Waterhouse, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Nancy Weissmuller and Nancy Strong, members of the Committee, presented checks of \$2,000 each to Jennifer Schimer, Ashley Hermonot and Jennifer Pianka. Each recipient spoke briefly of their activities.

Janet Healy, Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee gave her report and an award for the Outstanding Farmer was presented to Ricahrde and Dorothy Wingate, who operate the Studio Farm in Voluntown, CT. The Outstanding Professional Farmer Award went to Diane Matsuzaki.

The members of the FFA were introduced, including Milton and Pat Natusch and a check of \$135 was presented to the FFA.

Master Sendewicz announced that a check for \$505 would be sent to Heifer International. This represented funds collected from various Granges.

Betty Jane Gardiner, Director of the CWA, had everyone sing the scale (music being their theme this year) and music centerpieces were given away.

## Opening Session - Thursday, October 16, 2008

The morning session of the 124th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange opened at 9:00 A.M. in the Sixth Degree with Worthy Master Robert Sendewicz presiding.

Jimmy Gentry, Overseer of the National Grange and Sister Gentry were escorted to the Master's Station. Roll Call of officers was followed by lowering the Grange to the 4th Degree. The 4th Degree delegates were escorted to the Master's station and welcomed by the State Master. The Roll Call of Granges found 9 Pomonas and 46 Subordinates present. A quorum being present, the business of the session could be conducted. The Chairpersons of Session Committees were announced.

The following resolutions were read and referred to committees:

1. Quarterly Reports - Constitution & By-Laws
2. State Grange Office - Good of the Order
3. Funding of Annual Sessions of National Grange - Constitution & By-Laws
4. Reimbursement of the Elected Members of the State Grange Executive Committee - Legislative/Insurance
5. The Kelley Farm - Agriculture/Conservation/Environment

6. Subordinate Honor Grange Award - Grange Activity
7. Exact Listing of Grange Halls/Meeting Places - Credentials/Master's Address/Resolutions
8. Territorial Honor Grange Points - Credentials/Master's Address/Resolutions
9. Farmer's Market Listing - Agriculture/Conservation/Environment
10. Grange of the Year Award - Grange Activity
11. Campaign Funds - Legislative/Insurance
12. Management of State Grange Accounts - Good of the Order
13. The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007- Legislative/Insurance
14. Update Local Grange Accounting Methods - Good of the Order
15. Selling Grange Halls - Grange Activity
16. Sales Tax Exemption - Credentials/Master's Address/Resolutions
17. Sales Tax Holiday - Constitution & By-Laws
18. Honorary Grange Membership Certificate for Connecticut Farmers - Agriculture/Conservation/Environment
19. Elimination of Styrofoam Products in Food Industry
20. Cottage at Camp Berger - Grange Activities
21. Farmer's Market Listings - Agriculture/Conservation/Environment
22. Highway Tolls - Constitution & By-Laws
23. Invasive Plants in Connecticut - Agriculture/Conservation/Environment
24. Seasonal Roadside Stands - Credentials/Master's Address/Resolutions

The Worthy State Master read his address covering many activities.

### **ADDRESS OF STATE MASTER ROBERT SENDEWICZ**

To the Officers and Members of the Connecticut State Grange:

As my first two year term as Master of the Connecticut State Grange draws to a close, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Master and that is what I mean. I am in this office to serve you. I know that there have been some differences between us these past few years but every decision I have made has been for the betterment of the Grange in Connecticut.

Sister Marge and I have been proud to represent the Connecticut State Grange at numerous functions. The first was shortly after our 2007 Annual Session as we headed out to Reno, Nevada for the National Session. These sessions, like our State Sessions, mix work with fun and the chance to strengthen friendships and ties with the other State Delegates.

We were able to get all of the Connecticut resolutions passed except one, which I withdrew and can be presented again this year with more information. We could not delay the National dues increase. I did learn more about the workings and politics of these sessions and I am gaining experience in dealing with them.

I conducted a Pink Sash meeting after the National Session to inform the officers and committees of Connecticut as to what transpired and how it would affect us. In the meeting with the Deputies, I explained how the new evaluation process of the Subordinate Granges was to work. It appears that it went smoothly as most of the reports on it were favorable and there was no significant drop in

Granges conferring degrees.

Next it was up to New Hampshire for the Northeast Region Leaders Conference. The leaders of the Connecticut State Grange met with the leaders of the other six states to plan programs for the coming year. We were fortunate that the new National Master and Leadership/Membership Director were at the conference to assist us. This is where I got the idea for another project that I started this year and will explain later in this address.

With little time to catch our breath we were off again to Irving, Texas for the Masters Conference. There we went to workshops to strengthen our leadership skills. The National Master also told us of his plans to strengthen Community Granges around the country and organize new ones. Here I learned more about the programs Rusty Hunt has available for State Granges. If there was a down side to this conference it was that air travel in the winter is not an enjoyable experience.

In the spring and summer Sister Marge and I continued our visits to Granges. I enjoyed presenting awards and anniversary certificates at your halls and added to the list of Granges I have finally visited. I took part in a membership drive at Glastonbury Grange #26 and was very pleased when they took in eight new members. I had the special honor of presenting seventy-five year certificates to three of our Past Voting Delegates. We also honored three one hundred year anniversaries at Riverton #169, North Stonington Community # 138 and Norwich # 172. Meeting with many of you, and especially those of you for the first time, is extremely enjoyable.

In June Rusty Hunt made his first trip to Connecticut. He was here for two days and met with two groups I had selected to form leadership teams. He evaluated us and determined that we were willing and able to take on this role. In January 2009, the National Leadership/Membership team will be in Connecticut to formally train these two teams to aid our Community Granges in developing their leadership and membership skills to improve their Granges. I am hoping this will strengthen the Granges in Connecticut.

In August the National Master came to Connecticut and presented two workshops on leadership and membership to members of our Community Granges. Those that attended were very impressed with his presentations and if they act on his teachings we will strengthen the Grange in Connecticut.

Sister Marge and I helped out at a few local Grange fairs this year. This is where you see Grangers in action. If we could put as much effort into improving our Granges as we do in running our fairs there would be no membership problem in Connecticut.

I spent five days at the Big E, working in the New England Grange Building and attending Trustees meetings. I had the special pleasure of meeting with Governor Rell on Connecticut Day at the fair.

As I have said at the beginning I enjoy representing the Connecticut State Grange in these duties.

## **COMMUNITY GRANGES**

The annual evaluations had good news and not so good news. Some Granges are improving or remaining solvent and others are struggling. I hope that the new program we have started will be able to help the struggling Granges and improve other Granges.

I had the sad duty of revoking the charter of Highland Grange #113. I wish to

not have that experience again. It is imperative that the leaders in the Granges understand the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grange. I plan on discussing some of these in more detail at the up-coming schools of instruction.

### **PINK SASHES**

There have been a few resignations in the Pink Sash family and I have made several other changes. I thank those of you who have served so diligently the past two years and I am sure the members appreciate the efforts you have contributed to the committees you are on. You have come together as teams and have been a benefit to the State Grange.

### **OFFICERS**

The officers of your Grange have been extremely helpful to me over the past year. I appreciate the help they have given when called upon and thank them for it. If not for their help I could not accomplish much.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This is the group that really runs the State Grange. I am only one/seventh of the group. Under the guidance of the Chairman, Phil Prelli, we run as a well-oiled machine. We do have differences of opinion but we understand the unique knowledge and experience each of us has and we always seem to come up with the proper course of action. It is a pleasure for me to work with this wonderful group and I thank them for their dedication to the Grange.

### **DEPUTIES**

Talk about a dedicated group, they are it. They are my eyes and ears in the Granges. I relish the feed back and the counsel that they give me and their advice. All I need to do is tell them I need a meeting or schools of instruction and they make all the arrangements with the Granges. When asked, they will instruct your Grange in the proper conduct of the meetings and the duties of the officers. Always remember that they are there to help you. They help me and I am grateful for that.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

This committee was depleted recently by a death and a resignation. I will personally miss Art Hanlon who was a close friend. Many years ago when I became Pomona Master he was my Legislative Director and he held that office at the state level also. I know the members of the committee and the State Grange will miss him.

Richard Healy has submitted his resignation and I have accepted it and I thank Richard for his contributions to the committee. I am sure that with the new appointees this committee will continue its excellent work in carrying out the legislative policies of this State Grange.

Thanks for the great job you have been doing.

## **COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES**

The CWA Committee did another great job this year with their "Let's Celebrate" day. With the assistance of our State Lecturer they had much more entries than last year. It seems it is growing each year. They had to do double duty this year. Along with their usual program they had to increase their output because of National Grange meeting in Connecticut. As usual they were up to the challenge and we will see their fine results in November.

Thank you Sister Betty Jane and your committee for your great work.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Sister Janet Healy has decided to take a break as director of this committee. She has done an excellent job the last two years especially since she accepted this position as a novice and I thank her for her dedicated service and the committee for their splendid work.

I will be filling several vacancies on this committee but I am sure they will be up and running soon and continuing the fine job that they do.

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

This committee has been extra busy this year. Aside from running the different programs and projects that they do so well they have been gearing up for the National Session. I am happy to announce that one of the committee members, Victor Salazar, has been chosen as Master of the National Youth Officers, which will open the National Session on Friday morning. This is a great honor for our state and the entire youth committee will be involved in activities throughout the Session.

Thank you Brother Don Lanoue and your committee, I know you will make us proud in November.

## **JUNIORS**

On September 19, 2008 I had the honor and the pleasure to present Hillstown Junior Grange #87 with their charter. The children of this new Junior Grange are enthusiastic and doing their best to learn the ritual. Sister Marge and I, along with many parents, became honorary members of the Junior Grange that night. Sister Joan Perry was instrumental in helping Sister Helen Forrest start this new Grange. Sister Michelle DeDominicis is the Junior Leader.

Although the Junior Deputies have less to do without the Agricultural Fair, they are eagerly helping other committees and other parts of our organization and I thank them for their continued efforts.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The backbone of our Order is Community Service and I am sure there will be much participation in the program this year as usual. I am also sure that Brother Jody and Sister Jodi Ann had difficulty picking out the best reports to be judged. If last year was any indication I know they took their responsibility seriously and we will hear of the great reports at the presentation.

I thank them both for the dedication they give to this task.

### **MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP**

I mentioned earlier in this address that Rusty Hunt was in our state on a fact-finding mission. Sister Joanne Cipriano was involved in these discussions and was impressed with his presentations and when he returns in January she and her committee will be a part of the training.

For the past year they have been giving you tips and moral support in your efforts to increase and retain members. This committee will help you in any they can in planning and setting up programs that your Grange wants to use.

Thank you Sister Joanne and your committee and just keep trying.

### **PUBLICITY/INFORMATION**

Has your Grange had an article in your local paper recently? No? Then why not?

Brother Carl Bernhardt and his committee members will aid you in preparing one and teaching you on how to get it published. It's not as hard as it seems. Publicity is one of the best aids you have in letting the public know about your Grange and the internet is even easier than newspapers. Contact someone on this committee to get help. They are waiting for you to ask.

Thank you Brother Carl and your committee and I hope you get a deluge of calls.

### **STUDENT LOAN & SCHOLARSHIPS**

Speaking of help, here is a committee to aid you in your pursuit of higher education. Because of the many donations of caring Grangers we are able to offer this service to our members. I thank Brother John Waterhouse, Sister Nancy Weissmuller and Sister Nancy Strong for the fine effort they put into this program. Please contact one of them to see how you can participate.

### **CAMP MAUD ISBELL BERGER**

The past several years have seen a decline in the use of our camp. Some think it might be time to quit. The Board of Directors realizes that this camp is an enormous asset to the Grange. We have developed a plan for the camp and later during the session the Chairman, Phil Prelli, will give a presentation on the plan.

I thank the camp Trustees and all who have worked so hard to make the camp a success and with your support we will bring it back to the greatness it once was.

### **THE BIG E**

I cannot thank enough the people who worked at the New England Grange Building this year, either in the store or in the Connecticut room. Through your efforts over \$25,000.00 came into the building during this year's fair. I don't know how much of it is profit at this time. I will learn at the Trustees meeting later this month. It is a great reward for the effort so many from all the New England States

have made. I was there for four days and there were always large crowds.

In addition, \$2,955.00 was raised for Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island with the quilt raffle. The winner of the quilt was Karen Bowers of Connecticut.

I thank Sister Doris Shaw for rounding up everyone who entertained visitors in the Connecticut Room and Sister Betty Jane Gardiner for getting so many volunteers for the store.

### **CODE READING**

Learning to read the Code Book is developing an understanding and love for the ritualism of our Order. Sisters Mildred Bell and Peg Prelli and Brothers Carlton Platt and Marvin Wilbur have spent years teaching the code to their fellow Grangers. The unwritten work is an integral part of the Grange even as much of it is no longer used and those who teach it to others deserve our thanks.

### **CONNECTICUT GRANGER**

I still receive compliments for our wonderful newspaper. Many Grangers who can no longer get to meetings tell me how they eagerly await its arrival each month and they read it front page to last. Many of us take it for granted not realizing the tremendous amount of work that goes into it each month.

Many thanks to Brother Todd Gelineau and his dedicated staff for this wonderful publication.

### **HOSTING COMMITTEE**

This is a new addition to the Master's Address but it is an important one. The people who are on this committee have spent the last few years putting in an extraordinary amount of work that will culminate in one fabulous week in November.

Under the Chairmanship of Brothers Phil Prelli and Russell Gray and the management of Brother Jody Cameron you will witness one great National Session. The hardest part is yet to come. Stay tuned.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Our worthy Chaplain will once again pay tribute to our Brothers and Sisters, of the Pink Sash family, who have gone to the great Grange above. Their labors in this life are complete.

All of us mourn the recent passing of Sister Peg Prelli, a Past Voting Delegate, and Brother Al Goodson, our State Chaplain for many years. Their leadership has benefited our Order.

I extend my deepest sympathy to all the families who have lost loved ones this year.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

Sister Marge and I have greatly enjoyed the past two years and we thank you for this opportunity you have given us. We share your love for and commitment to

our Order and will do our best to keep your trust. I continue to seek your advice and counsel and promise that I will always listen to what you have to say. I thank all of you, deeply, for whatever part you have played in making this past term so enjoyable.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Robert J. Sendewicz, Master  
Connecticut State Grange*

Thanks were given to the State Master for his report. It was given #25 and referred to Credentials/Master's Address/Resolutions. Lecturer, Marge Bernhardt, gave her report. It was accepted and ordered printed. Treasurer Phillip Bergquist presented his financial report and explained the "unaudited" wording and that the losses are due to the economy of the nation.

The Secretary's report was given and the Board of Directors/Executive Committee reported. The reports were accepted and ordered printed. The Treasurer's report was accepted subject to audit.

Legislative Chairman, Gordon Gibson read his report, this was accepted and ordered printed. He also gave a report on the Farmland Trust which was accepted and ordered printed.

The financial report given by Edith Schoell and report by Todd Gelineau on the Connecticut Granger were accepted and ordered printed.

Jody Cameron read and explained the policy and protocol of the "Background Checks". This was a directive from National Grange for the protection of our youth.

A letter was read from Duane Wetmore, a Past Voting Delegate, who was unable to attend the session.

The Grange recessed at 11:20 A.M. until 1:45 P.M.

## **Afternoon Session**

At 1:45 P.M. the Grange reconvened in the 4th Degree. The Past Voting Delegates were escorted to the Master's Station and presented with a token of appreciation for all the work they have done for the Grange. Those present were Bud and Marion Beecher, Russ and Sue Gray, Philip Prelli, and Mildred Bell.

The next order of business was election of officers. Robert Sendewicz was elected Master. While the ballots for Overseer were being counted, Pomona Deputy West, Todd Gelineau, gave his report. General Deputy, Robert Buck and Pomona Deputy East, James Palmer gave their reports. All reports were accepted and ordered printed.

While ballots were being counted reports were given. Those elected were:

Overseer: Jody Cameron

Lecturer: Marge Bernhardt

Assistant Steward: Noel Miller

Lady Assistant Steward: Cynthia Finch

Chaplain: Amy Whitcomb

Treasurer: Philip Bergquist  
Secretary: Edith Schoell  
Gatekeeper: George Russell

Membership Chairperson Joanne Cipriano reported and announced the winners of the contests.

The Legislative/Insurance Committee reported on resolutions.

Resolution #4. Moved adoption- so voted.

Resolution #11. Moved for rejection - so voted.

The Good of the Order Committee reported.

Resolution #2. Moved for adoption - so voted.

Resolution #12. Moved for rejection - so voted.

Resolution #14. Moved for rejection.

Motion was made, seconded and so voted to send the resolution back to the committee for reconsideration.

The Grange Activities Committee reported.

Resolution #6. Motion was made, seconded and so voted to send the resolution

back to committee for reconsideration.

Resolution #15. With common consent the words "investigate the possibility and feasibility of creating" were added. The committee moved adoption

So voted.

Resolution #7. Moved adoption- so voted.

Resolution #8. Moved rejection - so voted.

Resolution #16. Moved rejection - defeated.

Resolution #24. Moved adoption - so voted.

At this point Philip Prelli presented a power-point presentation on the future of Camp Berger. This included a 5 year plan on improving attendance at the camp over the next five years.

The Grange closed in the 4th Degree at 4:40 P.M.

## **Evening Session - Open Meeting**

The evening session of the Connecticut State Grange began at 7 P.M. Brother Don Lanoue, Director of the State Youth Committee gave his report. He presented many youth awards to various Grangers in many different areas. The Worthy Lecturer, Marge Bernhardt presented her "Orange" program. There were a number of skits presented, and the State talent winners entertained us with some music. The Worthy Lecturer presented her awards to outstanding Lecturers in the state. The Worthy State Master presented the Honor Grange Awards to qualified Granges in the state. Honor Subordinate went to Ekonk Community Grange, and Honor Pomona went to East Central Pomona No. 3.

Brother and Sister Cameron gave the Community Service Committee report. (Winning Granges are listed in his report.) This year Grangers across the state gave over 90,000 hours of community service.

Past Voting Delegate Mildred Bell gave the Code Reading report. Three members received their code reading cards: Dan Mutchler and Ron Purington of Lyme Grange and Victor Salazar of Eureka Grange.

Agriculture Director Janet Healy presented awards for this year's agricultural contest, decorated pumpkins.

1st- Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange

2nd- Cheree-Anne Miner, North Stonington

3rd- Barbara Foskett, Cheshire

She also presented awards for agricultural resolutions to Prospect #144, Lyme #147, Redding #15 and Mountain County Pomona #4.

The Past Deputies Raffle was held and profited \$870. The evening session closed at 9:15 P.M. Following the close the Youth had a social hour.

### **Insurance Breakfast**

At 7 A.M., Delegates and members attended the insurance breakfast. An invocation was given by Chaplain Amy Whitcomb. The head table included Fred Taverne of Patrons Group; Jimmy Gentry and Anita Gentry, our National Representatives, Phil and Maureen Prelli, Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron; Marge and Bob Sendewicz and Amy Whitcomb.

Fred Taverne was the speaker and explained the many types of insurance now offered as a result of State Auto taking over. This was informative on auto as well as home owner's insurance. A question and answer period followed.

Jimmy Gentry, National Overseer addressed the group.

### **Morning Session - Friday, October 17, 2008**

At 9:30 A.M., the second day of the 124th Session of the Connecticut State Grange opened in regular form in the Fourth Degree. Roll call of officers found all present. The records of the previous day were read, corrected and adopted.

An impressive memorial service by Chaplain Amy Whitcomb paid tribute to those members who have gone on to the great Grange above. Sister Whitcomb also read her report which was accepted and ordered printed.

Philip Prelli thanks the members for their thoughts and prayers on the loss of his mother, Peg Prelli.

Worthy Master reported that the reports of the Agriculture Committee, Community Service, Youth, Honor Granges and Code Reading given the previous evening be accepted and printed in the Journal.

The continuation of election: the ballot was spread for Ceres. While these were being counted Carl Bernhardt, gave the Publicity/Information report. This was accepted and ordered printed.

Counters reported that Eloise Osuch was selected Ceres.

Pomona: Jodi Ann Cameron.

Grange Activity session committee reported on

Resolution #6 moved for rejection - so voted

Resolution #26 substitution for #6 moved for adoption- so voted

Resolution #10 moved for rejection - so voted

Resolution #20 moved for rejection - so voted

Resolution #27 substitute for #20 moved adoption - so voted.

Election: Carol Hnath was elected Flora and Gordon Gibson was elected to the Executive Committee for 3 years.

Jimmy Gentry, National Overseer, spoke of the future of our Granges. Growth can be accomplished if we rid ourselves of negativity. We have to overcome the obstacles in order to grow.

Constitution & By-Laws Session Committee reported:

Resolution #1 - moved for rejection - so voted

Resolution #3 - moved for adoption - so voted

Resolution #28 - Committee resolution regarding National Convention

Funding - Moved for adoption - so voted

Resolution #17 - moved for adoption with common consent adding

“we request” in the final resolve after the word “that,” so voted.

Resolution #22 - moved for rejection. So voted.

Master’s Address Session Committee reported:

Resolution #25 moved for adoption - so voted.

Agriculture Session Committee reported:

Resolution #5 - moved adoption - so voted.

Resolution #9 - moved rejection - so voted.

Resolution #21 - duplicate automatically rejected.

Resolution #18 - moved adoption - so voted.

## **Afternoon Session**

The afternoon session of the State Grange reconvened at 1:45 P.M. A recess was called and Betty Jane Gardiner, Chairperson of the CWA and her committee escorted representatives from Foster Care and Covenant to Care to the hall. Anne-Marie Knockenhauer, presented Todd Gelineau with a check for \$525 for the Connecticut Granger Trust Fund.

She also presented a check for \$558 to Nancy Weissmuller for the Student Loan Fund and to Jerry Lemieux \$535 for the Camp Berger Maintenance Fund.

Bags and carts of items for Foster Families were brought into the hall. It is amazing how much has been collected by our members. (See the report of the CWA Committee).

The Grange was called back to order in the Fourth Degree.

Agriculture Session Committee reported:

Resolution #23 - moved for rejection - so voted.

Resolution #29 - substituted for 23 moved adopted - so voted.

Legislative Session Committee reported:

Resolution #13 - moved rejection - so voted

Resolution #30 substitute - moved adoption - so voted.

The resourceful Treasurer and Executive Committee collected \$113.50 for the Kelley Farm.

The Deputies took up a collection for the Youth Travel Fund, collecting

\$143.12.

Rehearsal was called for 3:30 P.M.

Grange proceeded to close in the Fourth Degree at 2:35 P.M.

## **Evening Session**

The evening session opened with the State Officers marching into the hall. The Grange opened in the Sixth Degree. National Representative Jimmy Gentry, Overseer of the National Grange and Anita Gentry were escorted to the Master's Station. Golden Sheaf members were recognized.

The secretary reported that Katie Molodich and 35 candidates were in waiting for the Sixth Degree. The degree was conferred in an impressive manner and Flora had a lovely court.

A fine Rose Drill was presented by eight sisters. Those taking part were: Tina Wilson, Marcia Gaspar, Beatrice Meehan, Brittany Ward, Helene Forrest, Michelle DeDominicis and Andrea Barlow.

Brother Gentry was called upon for remarks and he complimented Flora for a beautiful court and the officers for the fine presentation of the degree. Sister Gentry also spoke briefly.

The Grange was lowered to the Fourth Degree and Victor Salazar closed the meeting. Victor Salazar will open a session at National Grange as Master of the Youth Officer Corps.

The officers marched to the refreshment table and ice cream and cookies were enjoyed by all.

## **October 18, 2008 - Morning Session**

The third day of the 124th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange opened in regular form in the Fourth Degree at 9 P.M. Roll call of officers found all present except one member of the Executive Committee. The records of the previous day were read and adopted.

Worthy Master thanked all for the fine way the Sixth Degree was exemplified and reminded the officers we will put on the Sixth Degree for the National Session, as well as the Rose Drill. (If unable to attend, let him know, but you better have a good excuse.)

Good of the Order Committee reported:

Resolution #19- moved rejection for substitute

Resolution #31- moved adoption and so voted

Committee resolution #32 urging Investigation into the Pricing of Diesel Fuel- moved adoption- so voted.

Committee resolution #33 Connecticut's Three Strikes Law, moved adoption.

By common consent added "for a violent offense" in the final resolve after "third conviction". So voted.

Committee resolution #34 Concerning the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, moved adoption -- so voted.

Worthy Master released the Sessions Committees from further duties.

Jody Cameron, Coordinator for the Hosting of National Grange spoke at length on the National Session, and the various things that would be taking place.

Treasurer Philip Bergquist went over the proposed budget and spoke of the deficit. Motion made, seconded and so voted to accept the proposed budget.

Donald Lanoue reported the youth raffle made \$65 for the Youth Travel Fund.

Motion made, seconded and voted that the Board of Directors approve the minutes of the last day of the session. The Master called a recess at 11 A.M. in order that Officers and Delegates could check out of their rooms, and would reconvene at 1:15 P.M.

## **Afternoon Session**

At 1:15 P.M. the session was called to order. Brother Scott Sherman, Master of the Rhode Island State Grange was recognized.

Sister Joan Perry, Director of Junior Activities started her report by displaying the type of bike helmet that would be purchased. The distribution would be the same as last year- dividing them between the Pomonas and donated where needed. Sister Perry recognized the Past Junior Directors and those on her committee. She asked Leaders Vilma Gregoropoulos of North Stonington Junior; Helene Forrest of Hillstown Junior; and Jaimie Cameron representing Ekonk Junior to come forward. Betty Jane Gardiner, Director of the State CWA presented each with a bag of candy for their Granges. Sister Perry announced winners of the various contests and presented the prize ribbons and money to the three Junior representatives to be given out at their next meetings. Sister Perry asked that Jaimie Cameron read her essay on "Why I should be Junior of the year," after which Jaimie was decorated with the Junior Sash of the Year.

Sister Perry gave her report on Junior activities and announced they made \$154 on the raffle that would go toward the purchase of helmets.

At 1:50 P.M., the session was called to order in the Fourth Degree. The word was taken from those present. Worthy Master Sendewicz announced that Robert Charbonneau was being assigned to the Legislative Committee. Other assignments will be announced later. sister Anita Gentry was asked to speak to the group. She spoke of the need to keep our agricultural interests in the forefront.

The Junior Director's report was accepted and ordered printed. The meeting proceeded to close in the Fourth Degree at 2:10 P.M.

The installation of officers took place at 4 P.M., with Scott Sherman, Master of the Rhode Island State Grange as installing Master, Jack Kenyon, Emblem Bearer, Jeannette Kenyon, Regalia Bearer, Shirley Guertin, Pianist and Robert Charbonneau as Soloist. The following were installed:

Master Robert Sendewicz  
Overseer Jody Cameron  
Lecturer Marge Bernhardt  
Steward Jeffrey Barnes  
Asst. Steward Noel Miller  
Lady Assistant Steward Cynthia Finch  
Chaplain Amy Whitcomb  
Treasurer Philip Bergquist  
Secretary Edith Schoell  
Gatekeeper George Russell  
Flora Carol Hnath  
Pomona Jodi Ann Cameron

Ceres Eloise Osuch  
Executive Committee (3 years) Gordon Gibson

Candidates for the Sixth Degree

Martha Trask - Southington #25  
Tina Marshall - Cheshire #23  
Elizabeth Ryducha - Cheshire  
Karen Turner - Cheshire #23  
Gail Z. Aylmer - Manchester #31  
Robert Aldrich - Senexet #40  
Jennifer Anderson - Senexet #40  
Debra A. Brown - Whigville #48  
Janet R. Schwalm - Whigville #48  
Pamela Salazar - Eureka #62  
Richard W. Pozzo - Winchester #74  
Elizabeth Corey- Colchester #78  
Charlotte Locke - Colchester #78  
Wayne T. Mohrlein - Colchester #78  
Sharon Moroch - Colchester #78  
Stanley Moroch - Colchester #78  
Eva T. O'Connell - Colchester #78  
Jeffrey Watson - Colchester #78  
Andrea Barlow - Totoket #83  
Susan Hager - Totoket #83  
Donald Coulombe- Hillstown #87  
Nancy Coulombe - Hillstown #87  
Jon P. Hykes - Hillstown #87  
Lizette T. Hykes - Hillstown #87  
Brandi Hawkins - Ekonk #89  
Janet Hawkins - Ekonk #89  
Katie Molodich - Ekonk #89  
Shelley Racine - Ekonk #89  
Denise L. Aubin - Killingly #112  
Tiffany R. Aubin - Killingly #112  
Natasha Larocque - Killingly #112  
Raymond Fitch - Norfield #146  
Ted Powell - Lyme #147  
Jason E. Keefe - Riverton #169  
Mary Lou Keefe - Riverton #169  
Peter Keefe - Riverton #169

**MESSAGE FROM DUANE K. WETMORE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It is with regret and sadness that I have to send this letter to the Connecticut State Grange Session this year.

While I am still able to get about and aggravate Sharyn, I will not be able to join you this year.

I will be thinking of you, and wish you will in the deliberations of the session. Having served with many of you for many, many years; I have no doubt that this

session will be conducted in the manner that will take the State Grange forward with dignity, as it has in all the years past.

*Fraternally and God bless,  
Duane K. Wetmore,  
Past Voting Delegate*

## **REPORT OF THE OVERSEER**

Brothers and Sisters of the Connecticut State Grange,

It is with pleasure that I submit my second report to you as Overseer of the Connecticut State Grange.

I have had the opportunity to speak with many members this past year and a resounding theme has come up. Even though change is essential for our future, we are abandoning our ideals and principles. We have not found the balance to move forward to the level this organization MUST move to.

I agree with some of these sentiments. Change IS essential for our future. But as our organization looks at change and how it benefits our individual Community Granges and Pomonas, we must NEVER abandon the fundamental purpose and ideals our Founders organized us with. They are as important and relevant today as they were 142 years ago when they organized this powerful and influential organization. There is more and more unrest in Granges, and we cannot continue to operate in this manner. One thing that will bring any organization down is friction among members. One of our strengths is how the Grange brings together a diverse group of citizens, in each community, to work together to make their communities stronger and a better place for all to live. With friction among members we create an environment that is unpleasant and makes it so no one wants to be part of the situation, giving everyone a negative impression of what our organization really is. Our mission needs to be the betterment of our communities through our Community Service, Legislative influences, and our fellowship. We cannot sustain our Granges without mutual cooperation between members and their communities.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** What does this mean? Each of us must be accountable for adhering to and exemplifying the obligation we took. There is not one of us that is not to be held accountable for our actions, or lack thereof. We must conduct ourselves with the respect and dignity we would expect from others. We must find a common ground when dealing with those we find we have conflict with. We should all be working toward the same goal. A strong Grange that meets the needs of its members and community.

I was asked why "State Grange Officers feel they are above the members." If any of the pink sash family feels they fall within this classification, I would expect them to take a reality check, and gracefully decline any further position within this State Grange. If the membership feels there are Officers that conduct themselves in this manner it is your responsibility to no re-elect them.

We are at a point in our organization Brother and Sisters, where we cannot afford to be at odds. We MUST be looking at our past, cultivating the lessons of our ritual, and creating a Grange environment that is kind, caring and influential.

We have lost around 30 Granges in the last 10 years, if we maintain this current trend, in about 20 years there will be no Connecticut State Grange. We must develop stronger leaders in all levels of the Grange, giving them the tools

they need to create policy and programs that strengthen their individual Granges. This is a responsibility of your State Grange. You, as a member, have the right to expect training and guidance that will enable you to advance your Grange and membership.

We are told by the experts that the current generation are the joiners. As I understand this, this has not been the case since World War II. There is a vast number of citizens waiting to be approached and asked to be part of an organization that will meet their needs. The State Grange cannot obtain members for your Grange, but should give you the training in how to accomplish an effective, complete membership campaign. We can no longer afford to NOT invest in our Community Granges. We are a grass roots organization, this means from the ground up! We are nothing without strong and vibrant community Granges. If we do not take advantage of the training, no, GIFT, we are receiving from Rusty Hunt, National Grange Membership Leadership Director, we are acting recklessly and will be exhibiting our desire to see the Grange in Connecticut dwindle away into extinction. I am not willing to see this happen. If we all work together, putting into action and treasuring the lesson we have learned, we WILL grow the Grange in Connecticut and secure a bright future for all to come after us.

I had the opportunity to attend a seminar for my work. The lecturer spoke on why people and businesses do business with you. Companies no longer just sell products; they sell their experience, intelligence and reputations. You can buy a widget anywhere, but you always buy it where you do because of the relationship you have developed with that company. Our Grange is no different, people can join any organization, we must give them a reason to choose us, I know we can do it; all we have to do is want to.

I cannot thank the members of the Connecticut State Grange enough for the honor to serve you; I hope my duties have been performed to your satisfaction. I thank my family for their support, especially my wife Jodi Ann, without her I am not much. She is my supporter when needed and my critic, whether I think I need it or not.

I look forward to visiting with more Grangers over the coming year and understanding what we need to do, together, to make the Connecticut State Grange the premier organization we know it is.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody A. Cameron

## **REPORT OF THE LECTURER**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Good Morning. It is hard for me to believe that this is my sixth report as your Lecturer. I thank you for giving me the honor and for the help I have received along the way. You have accomplished a lot this year in the Lecturer's Department. It always amazes me when the reports start coming in and I realize just how much has been accomplished. Thank you for your cooperation and for your participation in our contests and projects.

It has been my pleasure once again to travel around the State to present membership and Community Citizen Awards. This is one of the favorite parts of my job. We need to do more to honor all our members who work so hard for the

god of the Order and I send my sincere congratulations to all of the recipients.

In January, we ventured to New Hampshire to attend Leader's Conference. With New York now a part of our organization, The New England Lecturer's Association was renamed the Northeast Lecturer's Association. At that time I also relinquished the position of President to Sherry Harriman, the Maine State Lecturer.

Our loyal Pomona Lecturers met in February to discuss what was happening and to decide on what to continue next year. My thanks to all of them. If you have any suggestions you wish to present for consideration and don't see me around, please feel free to approach any of them and let them know how you feel about things.

The Northeast State Lecturers met again this spring in Hooksett, New Hampshire to finalize plans for the Lecturer's Conference. This year, however, instead of coming right home we went to the University of Maine at Farmington to check out the location of the conference. It was a nice enjoyable ride. The road gradually gains altitude. It was dark when we got there so we didn't get a very good look around. The weather when we left home was warm. When we opened our motel door the next morning there was snow piled high and a crisp cold air blew across the countryside. In trying to find our way around, we turned off the main road only to find that there are still lots of dirt roads in this part of Maine. Their signs read "Maine, the way life should be." Guess we southerners are spoiled.

Our Talent and "A Number" Contests were judged as part of Grange Sunday at Good Will Grange Hall in June. We all thank East Central Pomona for their generosity in allowing us to use their hall. We had good participation in the "A Number Contest," but I wish we could have had more entries in the Talent Contest. Our Talent winners will be performing here tonight.

The second annual "Let's Celebrate" was held the last Saturday in July. This is co-sponsored by the CWA and Lecturer's Departments. I have enjoyed working with Betty Jane Gardiner and her committee these last two years. Last year was a learning experience, and add to this your suggestions and we had a new and better version this year. We are attracting new photographers from the middle of the state, plus for the first time in several years there were entries in the Junior categories. My congratulations to all the winners. This event will be held again next year. Be sure and come and see what other surprises we have in store for you.

Our annual Lecturer's Conference was held in August in Farmington, Maine. My thanks to all who attended. For most of the Connecticut Grangers who ventured north for the conference it was between 800 and 900 miles for the round trip. As always everyone was more than ready to help cart props, participate in the program and help out in general. Once again you have proven that Connecticut Grangers are fantastic people and I thank you all for your help and cooperation.

Our Complete Programs, Should Auld Acquaintance, A Word from Home, and the essay contests each had a large number of entries. The winners and information on next year will be announced tonight.

Please remember, it is my job to help you. Please do not hesitate to call me at any time. Thank you all. See you around the State.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marge Bernhardt

## LECTURER'S APPRECIATION AWARDS

Vivian Shaw, Granby #5	Denise Aubin, Killingly #112
Marge Sendewicz, Redding #15	Diane Barbieri, Watertown #122
Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire #23	Susan Carol Sulier, Trumbull #134
Doris Monaco, Glastonbury #26	Susan Pianka, N. Stonington #138
Dianne Clark, Meriden #29	Frances Maxwell, Prospect #144
Emily Alexander, N. Haven #35	Lois Evankow, Lyme #147
Debby Perry, Senexet #40	Irene Percoski, Enfield #151
Helena Schwalm, Whigville #48	Christine Shook, Bridgewater #153
Phyllis Redford, Westfield #50	Barbara C. Kulisch, Old Lyme #162
Joyce Jordan, Tolland #51	Debbie Barnes, Stonington #168
Sue Addison, Winchester #74	Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
Ethel Harris, Coventry #75	Pearl Godin, Wolcott #173
Polly Leonard, Colchester #78	Pat Palmer, Echo #180
Marion D. Bradley, Totoket #83	Nancy McBrien, Hemlock #182
Helene Forrest, Hillstown #87	Wanda Kansas, Simsbury #197
Russell M. Gray, Ekonk Comm. #89	Pamela Covington, W. Suffield #199
Bruce Jersey, Harmony #92	Irene Brown, Marlborough #205
Ann Russo, Putnam #97	Manchester Grange #31
Amy Whitcomb, Taghannuck #100	Brooklyn Grange #43
Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley #103	Vernon Grange #52
Helena Schwalm, Litchfield #107	Norfield Grange #146
Patrick McGowan, Preston City #110	Oxford Grange #194

## HONOR LECTURERS

Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire #23	Russell M. Gray, Ekonk Comm. #89
Emily Alexander, N. Haven #35	Diane Barbieri, Watertown #122
Ethel Harris, Coventry #75	Lois Evankow, Lyme #147
Marion D. Bradley, Totoket #83	Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme #162
Helene Forrest, Hillstown #87	

## "A WORD FROM HOME" CERTIFICATES

Cheshire #23	Taghannuck #100
N. Haven #35	Trumbull #134
Coventry #75	Lyme #147
Colchester #78	Old Lyme #162
Totoket #83	Riverton #169
Hillstown #87	Hemlock #182
Ekonk Community #89	Marlborough #205

## "SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE" CERTIFICATES

Granby #5	Beacon Valley #103
Cheshire #23	Watertown #122
Glastonbury #26	Trumbull #134
N. Haven #35	Prospect #144
Senexet #40	Lyme #147

Coventry #75  
Colchester #78  
Totoket #83  
Ekonk Community #89

Bridgewater #153  
Old Lyme #162  
Riverton #169  
Simsbury #197

### **“WHY I JOINED THE GRANGE” ESSAY WINNERS**

1st Place - Susan Carol Sulier, Trumbull #134  
2nd Place - Ethel Harris, Coventry #75  
3rd Place - Norman Stitham, Old Lyme #162

### **COMPLETE PROGRAM WINNERS**

1st Place - Susan Pianka, N. Stonington Community #138  
2nd Place - Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme #162  
3rd Place - Ethel Harris, Coventry #75

### **REPORT OF THE STEWARD**

Dear Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has again been a privilege to keep safely and in proper order the property of the Grange, and to represent the Connecticut State Grange as Steward.

I accompanied the New London County Pomona Deputy on her visits and evaluations of Granges in and out of our Pomona. And later in the years as an installing officer I had the opportunity to visit many more Subordinate and Pomona Granges.

I attended the Fall and Spring Pink Sash meetings and two Schools of Instruction. Also Grange Sunday and the meeting with the National Master, Ed Luttrell. Later in the year I attended Norwich Grange's 100th Anniversary, spent time at the New England Grange Building during the Big E, and marched in the parade on Grange Day. I attended the Rhode Island State Grange's 5th Degree Obligation and conferral of the Sixth Degree.

I am looking forward to the National Grange Convention in November and plan on spending the duration helping with the transportation needs of those attending.

Having met with the National Grange Membership/Leadership Development Director, Rusty Hunt, I am convinced that with his guidance and our conviction the Granges in Connecticut can be revitalized and grow. We have two capable teams ready to go to work on this endeavor. I'm sure that 2009 will be a year of change and growth for us, and I can't wait to get started. We have something that is too good to lose.

Fraternally,  
Jeffrey F. Barnes

### **STEWARD'S INVENTORY**

Property of the Connecticut State Grange in the possession of the Steward:

- 1 Trunk
- 1 Foot Locker

- 1 Wooden box for staves and staffs
- 1 Folding rostrum with middle section
- 1 Complete set of officer's Altar scarves
- 1 Box of implements, including Agate
- 1 Large Bible with marker
- 1 Set of Officer's staves with tops
- 3 Floor stands for staves
- 4 Pink bows for staves
- 1 Grange rug
- 3 Gavels
- 1 Gavel block
- 1 Large sickle
- 1 Small sickle
- 1 Small sheaf of wheat
- 1 Large sheaf of wheat (added 2002)
- 1 American flag set, including flag, tassel, staff and floor stand
- 1 Connecticut state flag set, including flag, tassel, staff and floor stand
- 1 Grange flag set, including flag, staff and floor stand
- 1 Complete set- Junior Delegate Badges and ribbons (made in 1993)
- 1 Complete set- Subordinate Delegate Badges and ribbons (made in 1993)
- 1 Complete set- Pomona Delegate badges and ribbons (made in 1993)
- 1 Grange Banner - A New Century, A New Grange
- 3 Tablecloths
- 1 Box of extra badges and ribbons to replace as needed
- 1 Altar - given by Hamden Grange #99- made by P.M. Frank Warner

Property of the Connecticut State Grange at the Central Office in Glastonbury:

- 8 Sterling silver candle holders
- 1 Granite block in a wooden holder
- 1 Charter (framed)

## **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT STEWARD**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Another year has come to an end. It is hard to believe how fast time flies. It is an honor to serve as your Assistant Steward of the Connecticut State Grange.

This past year I attended the Pink Sash meeting in November at Cheshire, and met with National Representatives for a membership drive. I missed Pink Sash at Camp Clean-Up. I enjoy Grange Sunday and talent run-off and Let's Celebrate in July.

Being on Edith Schoell's Installing Team give me the opportunity to visit many Granges across this state. From these visits we see how our Granges are doing and answer questions from concerned members. I see that our Community Granges are very busy in our towns. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as Assistant Steward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noel Miller

## **REPORT OF THE LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Another year of Grange work has come to an end and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed it.

The office of Lady Assistant Steward is both a fun job and work.

I have tried to attend as many meetings and functions as possible and thank everyone for the warm reception given to Ernie and me.

Fraternally,  
Cynthia Finch

## **REPORT OF THE CHAPLAIN**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been just one year since my election as Chaplain and I am most honored to have been able to have served you. It was an honor to receive your confidence in my ability.

This has been a busy year visiting many Subordinate and Pomona Granges. It has been an honor to present several seals and certificates, and get to know several new patrons. I was honored to present the message at New England Grange Sunday at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire.

State Grange Sunday at Good Will Grange Hall in June brought a new challenge as I prepared for my first sermon and planned a service. The preparation and presentation were enjoyable and I hope you were inspired. The attendance was wonderful and I thank everyone for their help.

One of the most challenging parts of being Chaplain is writing the monthly articles for the Granger. I have tried to find inspiring topics and do hope you have been able to find something in my messages. To all the people who have notified me of the illness or passing of our Grange Patrons a large thank you. One of the difficult parts of being Chaplain is getting all the names and addresses of these fine folks. To all who have made the transition to this new position so smooth, my gratitude.

I would be lacking if I did not thank all the Granges that have sent me invitations. Your hospitality has been outstanding.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chaplain for the past year. It has been and continues to be a challenging job sharing my faith with you. I now have the opportunity to call you all my friends. God spread his blessings on you all.

Fraternally,  
Amy Whitcomb

## **STATE GRANGE MEMORIAL PROGRAM**

Invitation to Memorial:

Patrons, we have gathered here to remember those of our Pink Sash family who have gone on to the great Grange above where the great Master of us all dwells.

We have gathered here to praise God and speak to our Faith, as we celebrate these faithful workers.

We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss. May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow, hope and in death

resurrection.

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Prayer: Holy God, whose days are not our ways and whose thoughts are not our thoughts, grant that your Holy Spirit may intercede with sighs too deep for human words. Heal our wounded hearts made heavy by our sorrow. Assure us again that ear has not heard, nor eye seen, nor human imagination envisioned, what you have prepared for your people. Help us to hear your words of comfort in these notes of music and words of scripture, that we may hold fast to the assurance and hope of life eternal.

At this time we will honor those who have passed from our State family. Memorial Roll Call: Selected Patrons placed flowers on a candlelit table while the names of our deceased members were read and soft background music was played.

Reading: A setting sun leaves behind its colorful statement of farewell, itself a promise of tomorrow's reappearance. A scurrying animal leaves behind both its scent and its track, records of its presence and activity. A growing plant leaves behind its seeds or bulbs that bear new life, assurance of continuity in the future. A departing friend leaves behind memories rich with caring and sharing, connections that cannot be broken.

Today as we gather in memorial, we celebrate what Jesus Christ left behind, a promise of life eternal. These are signs that speak of our faith. They serve as promises of our Savior's reappearance, records of divine presence and activity in human history, assurance of continuity for the body of believers, reminders of a holy and unbreakable connection with our Creator.

We offer our thanks and praise to God.

Special Music: A medley of old time hymns played by State Pianist, Huena Wetmore.

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 23 by all

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

New Testament Lesson: John 1: 1-7

"Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going. Thomas said to him "Lord we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way?" Jesus

said to him "I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

Hymn: In Times Like These

Selection: The Divine Weaver

A man's life is laid in a loom of time. To a pattern he does not see. While the Weaver works and the shuttles fly till the end of eternity.

Some shuttles are filled with silver thread and some with threads of gold; While often but the darker hue is all that they may hold. But the Weaver watches with skillful eye each shuttle to fly to and fro, and sees the pattern so deftly wrought as the loom works sure and slow.

God surely planned that pattern. Each thread- the dark and the fair- was chosen by his master skill and placed in the web with care. He only knows the beauty and guides the shuttles which hold the threads, so unattractive as well as the threads of Gold.

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly, shall God unroll the pattern and explain the reason why. The dark threads are as needful in the Weaver's skillful hand as the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he had planned.

Lord's Prayer: Let us all join in the Lord's Prayer using trespasses.

Benediction: Discover God's greatness in small beginnings, God's grandeur in humble places, God's glory in loving service. Receive the coming joy, and magnify God in all you do. Amen.

Gertrude Prelli	Past Voting Delegate to the National Grange
Ruth Peck	Wife of Past Voting Delegate & State Master Donald Peck
Irene Babbitt	Past Junior Deputy
Anne Seger	Past Junior Deputy, Camp Berger Trustee
Gilbert Lassen	State Agricultural Committee
Sally Whittaker	Past Junior Deputy
Lois Baker	Past Junior Deputy
Regina Stands	CWA Committee; Past Junior Deputy
Paul Ziegler	Past Deputy
Arthur Hanlon	Legislative Committee
Walter Krawiec	Past Deputy
Aldred Goodson	Past State Chaplain

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

As presented to the delegates at the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Session. The review by Studley, White & Associates was completed on November 20, 2008. The Treasurer's Report has been excluded from the Website version of the Journal of Proceedings. To obtain a copy, please contact the Secretary or Treasurer.

## REPORT OF THE STATE SECRETARY

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Where has the time gone? Are we having fun? Life at the Central Office started out peaceful and serene until a few months ago.

There have been many requests for longevity certificates and seals. There were 42 Golden Sheaf certificates, 14 seventy-five year certificates and numerous others. I was surprised to have four requests for 80 year recognition. I happened to be present when one was presented to a sister at Coventry Grange.

Quarterly Reports have shown that several Granges have taken in new members this year. We still have a way to go to show a net gain for the State. Thanks to all the secretaries for their work and support, as well as filing their reports on time. As usual there are a few who are consistently late in reporting.

I have tried to be prompt in filing requests for supplies or getting answers to questions. I have made bloopers and also have learned a great deal during the past year.

Some are happy that a computer has been installed in the Central Office. There is much to be said in favor as well as against. I still have a long way to go to master all the programs and have found it has a mind of its own. It may be a quick way to communicate with people, but I'm never certain they read their email and I would much rather talk to a live person. The answering machine is on at all times and I try to respond promptly to all requests. Of course, there are times that people do not speak clearly or too fast to understand the telephone number. Please speak clearly.

The time has come for the Central Office to move from Hebron Avenue to Naubuc Avenue. Everything has been moved thanks to Bob Sendewicz, Phil Bergquist, Gordon Gibson and Ray Legg. Thank goodness it was a nice day to move the boxes and supplies. I cannot thank the Brothers enough for their hard work. Thank you, thank you. Needless to say, things may have been moved, finding things is another story! Just give me time!

Also, we have a new Post Office Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. I had to laugh when the girl at the Post Office said we have always had you at Hebron Avenue and a request for a box before didn't work. Well, they have to change with the times too.

Thanks to all that have helped during the year, making phone calls or distributing materials. It is greatly appreciated and made my tasks easier.

Fraternally,  
Edith Schoell

## REPORT OF THE GATEKEEPER

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Gatekeeper this past year. I was unable to attend the Pink Sash meeting this past year but was able to attend the School of Instruction in January.

I helped Mountain County Pomona put on a Barn Dance to raise money for a member of Litchfield Grange and Mountain County Pomona. Their barn was destroyed in a fire during the winter months.

Along with our Worthy Chaplain, Amy Whitcomb, I participated in the Memorial Service held for Gertrude Prelli.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Russell

### **REPORT OF FLORA**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

This year family issues and responsibilities have limited my activities. Now that the main issue has been resolved, I am looking forward to once again being able to attend more functions and meetings. I have attended my regular Pomona meetings and functions and as many of my Subordinate meetings as possible.

The court was once again miraculously ready within a very limited time. Without my daughter's, Pat Palmer's, Kay Ruff's, Eloise Osuch's, Jim Palmer's, and J. Allen and Jodi Ann Cameron's help, this would not have happened. These members (with the exception of Jacquie who had to run off to work) and several others assisted in taking the court down after the degree. The following women were in the court: Flora's attendants: Jacquie Hnath and Pat Palmer; Cere's attendants: Barbara Robert and Dorothy Fairchild; Pomona's attendants: Kay Ruff and Jane Miller; Linda Coad, Lisa Lamoureux, Debbie Barnes, Kim Mele, Kathy Arzt, and Anne-Marie Knochenhauer. Alma Graham served as Flora to open the Sixth Degree session. All of these people are thanks most sincerely. The court props and material had to be moved several times- anyone who helped is heartily thanked with a special thank you to Todd Gelineau, Jim Palmer, and J. Allen Cameron.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Connecticut State Grange in this capacity and, once again, thank those whom have assisted me in any way. I am also honored to have been reelected to this position and hope that I continue to have the cooperation and assistance that I have come to expect from my brothers and sisters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol B. Hnath

### **REPORT OF CERES**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

As another year passes it has been a pleasure and honor to serve as Ceres of the Connecticut State Grange. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

I have attended many functions and done as much visiting as possible over the year while remaining active in my Subordinate and Pomona Grange and helping out where needed. I especially enjoyed working with other Grange members at Camp Clean-Up Day and at the Big E in the New England Grange Building where I met Grange people from many other states.

My sincere thanks to each and every one of you for the courtesies you have extended to me over the year.

Fraternally,  
Eloise Osuch

## **REPORT OF POMONA**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Pomona of the Connecticut State Grange. Thank you to Kay Ruff and Jane Miller for your assistance again in the court. I have not been able to visit as much as I should have but I was able to get to a few Granges with Jody for Installations and thank everyone for their hospitality.

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

The Board of Directors meets the last Wednesday of each month at 5:00 P.M. at the Grange office. The Board consists of the three elected members of the Executive Committee, Master, Overseer, Treasurer and Secretary. These meetings are conducted to carry out the day to day operations of the State Grange, handle emergencies and ensure the continuity of operation.

As stated many times before, the main responsibility of the Board is the day to day operations of our Grange. This consists not only of the financial well-being of the Grange, but to make sure the by-laws of the National and State Granges are being adhered to by all the members. Time is spent at each meeting reviewing the investments and financial position of the State Grange and making decisions concerning them. Not only this year but during the last few years, we have needed to rely on not only the interest, but also the principle of these funds to keep our State Grange going. Difficult decisions have had to be made on cutting our expenses and the benefits provided to our members. With this in mind the difficult decisions was made to move our Central Office from the Patrons Building where we have been for many years to East Central Pomona's building formerly known as Good Will Grange. This is expected to save us a substantial amount as well as helping East Central with the cost of maintaining their hall. This is a step in controlling our budget but doesn't solve the problem. We must look at ways of increasing our income either by bringing in new members or increasing dues.

We are also looking at ways to controlling the costs of our Annual Meeting, one of our biggest annual expenses. You should be hearing more on this at this session or early in our Grange year. Changes need to be made.

Once again this year the Camp was run at a loss, precipitating again the use of the Trust Fund to cover expenses. The Board sought the assistance of a consultant to see what should be done to turn the Camp around. A report of over 500 pages was received. The first step was for the Board to assess the total situation and a 5 year plan was developed. This will be presented later in the session.

One of the most difficult situations is when we have to intervene when a Grange is having problems or selling their hall. The Board is here to assist and has the fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the proper procedures are followed. We have instituted a new procedure where an affidavit is filed on the land records when we hear a Grange is looking at selling their hall and not following procedures. This ensures that we are notified and must approve a sale. We should all remember the assets of a Grange are not just owned by current members but all those who came before us and those members to come. The by-laws are very precise on how a sale should be handled. We also needed to step in when there were problems with

Granges and the Master even had to suspend a Charter. Not a pleasant time.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their leadership, guidance and assistance. Whatever we do we will strive to do our best and serve our fraternity.

Fraternally submitted,  
F. Philip Prelli, Chr.

## **REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

The Legislative Committee has continued to carry forward the work determined upon by the delegate body, often working in close coordination with our Grange counterparts in nearby states and also with organizations not affiliated with the Grange. I have received many compliments on our articles in the Connecticut Granger where we try to keep the membership informed of everything that is happening in both Hartford and Washington.

Our major accomplishment this year was the passage of the Face of Connecticut Act which creates a fund for local and regional open space programs, farmland conservation and stewardship, affordable housing, revitalization of urban parks, historic preservation and clean-up of contaminated properties. It encourages both the preservation of our rural lands and the redevelopment of our decaying industrial areas, thus reducing the demand for industrial sprawl. At first glance these programs appear to be quite diverse, but they all contribute to preserving our heritage and the quality of life in Connecticut as we know it. Although no funds were appropriated for the Face of Connecticut program this year, this is not a major problem. Even if money was available now, the steering committee has to get itself and the programs organized before it is ready to move forward with any of the programs authorized in the act. This all takes time, so most likely the General Assembly will be working on the 2009-2010 budget by the time the committee is ready to move forward with its programs.

Another important act was passed to help the dairy farmers by promoting the use of milk and milk products. Like the Face of Connecticut bill, no money was appropriated for this milk promotion, but we at least have the legislation in place when the funds are available.

Two bills the Grange supported did not pass, mostly because they would have resulted in a net loss of tax revenues to the state. One bill would have allowed people to take a credit on their State income tax return for the value of land or easements donated for conservation purposes. The other would have exempted the donation of farmland preservation easements from the "look back" period when a person applies for Medicaid and similar programs.

Now that the New York State Grange has joined with the six other New England State Granges for most programs, we have reorganized our regional program into the Northeast Legislative Alliance to achieve our common goals at both the state and national level. Our new alliance has had four meetings so far and hopes to have our website up and running in the near future. Our September meeting was devoted to this year's session of the National Grange. The National Grange held a legislative workshop during each national session, but this was dropped several years ago due to limited participation. The Northeast Alliance decided we were going to hold a legislative workshop this year, even if we had to do everything ourselves. I am pleased to report that National Grange recognized the interest

we had and has included the workshop in the official program. I am also pleased to announce, and this is news even to our Connecticut Hosting Committee, our speaker will be Bonnie Burr, Connecticut Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, who will speak on the new 2008 Farm Bill and what it will mean to farmers across the country.

We were saddened this year by the death of Brother Art Hanlon, approximately three weeks after his wife Arlyne passed on. Art was a member of the Legislative Committee for eighteen years, serving as Legislative Director for eight years. The committee thanks Art for his dedication, and, perhaps most important, his understanding of Medicare.

Our committee now consists of Brothers George Ward, Charles Dimmick, Dick Healy, and Bob Charbonneau. The members of the Executive Committee are also ex-officio members of the Legislative Committee, and Brother Ruel Miller has attended and actively participated in every meeting of the Legislative Committee this year. As I have said in previous years, each has their special area of interest and expertise, which makes it quite easy to stay abreast of all current issues. It is only through their dedication, time and effort that we accomplish everything we do. They are a great group to work with.

Worthy Master, we again want to thank you for the opportunity you have given us to continue serving the Connecticut State Grange as we work to improve the quality of life for everyone in Connecticut.

Fraternally submitted,  
Gordon F. Gibson, Director

## **REPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Connecticut Farmland Trust has had another successful year, thanks to the many generous donors who make it financially possible to preserve our rapidly diminishing farmland base. Connecticut Farmland Trust recently closed on an easement on Cato Corner Farm in Colchester, bringing our total preserved land to 1195 acres on 15 farms across the state. We plan to close on two additional farms by December 31, 2008 which will preserve another 250 acres of farmland.

During the year we have also made more than 200 consultations with towns, local land trusts and individual land owners to assist them in preserving farmland. Assisting farm families in planning the smooth transfer of their land from one generation to the next is becoming an important part of our work. In too many cases a family has been forced to sell some or all of their land to raise the cash needed to settle an estate and pay the inheritance taxes.

We were asked to serve on the panel to select recipients of grants to evaluate barns and outbuildings for structural integrity, historic significance and feasible re-uses. I am pleased to report that one of the barns selected is owned by a very active family in my own Grange.

Recognizing the importance of farmland across the nation, Henry Talmage, our Executive Director, will be one of the featured speakers at the Salute to Agriculture breakfast as part of the National Grange session on November 12, 2008.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Connecticut Farmland Trust I want to thank the Connecticut State Grange, the Pomona and Subordinate Granges and the many individual Grange members who support our work with both time and money. Thanks to all of you, we are able to meet our goals of preserving

Connecticut's farmland before it is irretrievably lost to development.

Fraternally,  
Gordon F. Gibson, SR/WA  
Director

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Once again it is time to report on our year of activities... and what a busy twelve months it has been.

We got off to a good start with our usual meetings in four areas of the state on the Saturdays following last year's annual session. Many thanks to Norwich, Redding, Cheshrie and East Central Pomona for the use of their nice halls and to the Pomona chairpersons who were responsible for the social hour at the conclusion of each event.

The MUSIC LINGERED ON from the previous year as we continued our tuneful theme.

Leader's Conference in January is always worthwhile and 2008 was no exception. The exchange of thoughts and plans with the other states (now called the Northeastern area) was enjoyable as well as beneficial.

We are proud to say our department offers opportunities to everyone interested in needlework, crafts and baking, a chance to take part in any or all of our contests. Needlework is well supported. First place state winners in each of the ten categories go on to the New England finals at the Big E in September. Connecticut did very well again this year with a first place winner, three second place awards, three third places and an honorable mention. Congratulations to all the winners.

The baking contest for Applesauce Medley Quick Bread was a popular one.

The craft contest brought out entries on a musical theme with much originality and creativity.

Our contests at the state level were judged on "Let's Celebrate" day in Glastonbury at the end of July. It was a pleasant day for all with lunch presided over by Junior Director, Joan Perry, and her crew. Entertainment was by the Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers, and a refreshment hour topped off the afternoon.

The CWA projects received fine support with \$563 going to the Connecticut Granger Trust Fund, \$563 to the Student Loan Fund, and \$529 for the maintenance fund at Camp Berger.

A representative from Foster Families accepted gifts of Memory Books, Comfy Covers, Gift Cards, Christmas Stockings, and other items.

The project requested by Covenant to Care was to prepare bags of foods for Thanksgiving to be given to families in need. Your response to the request made it possible for their worker to take 57 bags back to headquarters. A great example of the generosity of our Granges.

The Country Store in the New England Grange Building at the Big E had the best profit year ever. We will never cease to be amazed at your response to our appeal for handmade items to be sold. We're pleased to say we have folks come back year after year to shop in our beautiful little building.

We just about sold out this year... and had it not been for two rainy days on the last weekend, I think we would have had very empty shelves. We know this gives us a challenge for the year ahead... and we have no doubt that you will help

us meet that challenge.

We deeply appreciate the long hours of help given by so many of you in the store. Thank you to each and every one who spent their time in West Springfield during the seventeen days of the Fair.

We take great pride in our Connecticut Granger, and thank editor Todd Gelineau for giving us space in each issue for the Stitch in Time column. Our committee members write the article in rotation, so that each of us has the opportunity to keep you informed of our program. It is a pleasure to be a part of our State paper.

At the close of each year of work, Certificates of Excellence (or appreciation) were given to nine Pomonas and forty-one Subordinates. Each of these Granges submitted a report listing all kinds of great projects and accomplishments. All of this good work testifies to the amount of service given to our towns. A million thanks for all you do.

I'll close this report with thanks to Worthy Master Sendewicz and Sister Marge for all they have done to help us with our endeavors. It has been great working with them.

To our Pomona and Subordinate Chairpersons a huge thank you for the way you have guided our work throughout the state... and to all who have taken part in our program... many, many thanks.

Jane, Joan, Anne, and Ruth have been as helpful as ever in doing the work of the department. We met several times during the year at the Miller home to keep things going. Ruel, Ken, and our trucker Ted Beebe have been great helpers. It was sad to say goodbye to Paul.

In thinking about all you do for us, we decided to select our new theme in your honor... because you know, folks... you are the Cat's Meow!!!

Fraternally,

Betty-Jane Gardiner, Director

Ruth Herbele

Anne Knochenhauer

Jane Miller

Joan Ziegler

## **CWA CONTEST WINNERS**

### **New England Needlework Contest**

Class A Afghan: 1st Wilma Deziel, Prospect #144; 2nd Irene Percoski, Enfield #151; 3rd Ruth Herbele, Manchester #31

Class B Doilies: 1st Cindy Anderson, N. Stonington #138; 2nd Edna Schneider, Harmony #138; 3rd Jane Wendell, Simsbury #197

Class C Embroidery: Edith Schoell, Manchester #31; 2nd Pat Conger, Vernon #52; 3rd Beulah Partridge, Litchfield #107

Class D 3 Piece Baby Set: 1st Marilyn Stitham, Old Lyme #162; 2nd Edna Schneider, Harmony #92; 3rd Barbara Cameron, Ekonk #89

Class E Plastic Canvas: 1st Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley #103; 2nd Glen Conger, Vernon #52; 3rd Joan Ziegler, Redding #15

Class F Counted Cross Stitch: 1st Mariellen Baxter, Vernon #52;  
2nd Stella Kuladowski, Hillstown #87; 3rd Julianne Davis, Old Lyme #162

Class G Adult Garment: 1st Kathryn Ruff, Glastonbury #26, 2nd Edna Schneider,  
Harmony #92; Barbara Cameron, Ekonk #89

Class H Latch Hook: 1st Peggy Garrity, Cannon #152; 2nd Kay Ruff,  
Glastonbury #26; 3rd Lois Evankow, Lyme #147

Class I Wall Hanging: 1st Karen MacDonald, Redding #15; 2nd Doris Johnson,  
Old Lyme #162; 3rd Lois Evankow, Lyme #147

Class J Stuffed Toy: 1st Jennifer Schirmer, Vernon #52; 2nd Flo Mullane,  
No. Stonington #138; 3rd Norma DePietro, Glastonbury #26

### **Baking Contest- Applesauce Medley Quick Bread**

1st - Cathy Romano, Norfield #146  
2nd - Joan Goetjen, Tunxis #13  
3rd - Ruth Shapleigh, Old Lyme #162

### **Craft Contest - Anything Musical**

Needlework - Adult - 1st Lois Evankow, Lyme #147; 2nd Barbara Robert,  
Watertown #122, 3rd Debbie Brown, Whigville #48  
Other Media - Adult - 1st Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme #162, 2nd Marilyn Stitham,  
Old Lyme #162, 3rd Jean Meehan, Prospect #144, Honorable Mention,  
Doris Johnson, Old Lyme #162  
Other Media - Junior - 1st Angelina DeDominicis, Hillstown Junior Grange  
Special Poster Category - 1st Bill Murphy, Litchfield #107;  
2nd Joanne Klingerman, Litchfield #107  
Scrapbooks: 1st- Anna Fiori, Lyme #147, 2nd Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme #162,  
3rd Maude Emhoff, Stafford #1, Honorable Mention Beatrice Meehan,  
Prospect #144

## **REPORT OF THE PUBLICITY/INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

During the past year, your State Information/Publicity Committee has been busy assisting Subordinate and Pomona Granges in preparing and submitting press releases to the news media throughout the state. Through the efforts of these Granges we are getting the activities of the Granges out to the general public.

During this State Session, many of the Granges will be receiving awards for the work they have done over the past year. All the Granges should tell the citizens in their towns what awards they have received. Remember, only you can tell the public what the Grange is and what Civic and Community Service work the Grange is doing in the community.

Each of the Subordinate and Pomona Committees should maintain a working relationship with the reporters/editors of the newspapers that circulate in their areas and keep them informed of their Grange's activities. For special events, perhaps they should place a paid advertisement in their local newspaper. Letters should be

sent to your town officials and to residents who may be interested, informing them of your upcoming events.

Our State Grange's website has been improved over the past year. There is a Grange News Digest where Granges can have their upcoming events posted for all to see. The information contained on our website has helped spread the Grange message and information to the general public. The webmasters have added a new website to the internet: [www.nationalgrange2008.com](http://www.nationalgrange2008.com). This website has information on the National Grange's Convention here in Connecticut. It has a welcoming article by the State Master, a list of Connecticut attractions, a request for volunteers and a space to download the 2008 National Grange Convention brochure. As we get closer to the date of the National Grange Convention (remember, that it is less than four weeks away), additional data will be added to this website. Our Committee would like to thank Terri Fassio and Todd Gelineau for their work in continually upgrading our website.

In July, the State Grange held the "Let's Celebrate" event. The information/Publicity Committee held a poster judging at this event. We would like to thank those who submitted entries. The winners were in Hand Drawn Posters: 1- Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange; 2- Vivian Shaw of Granby Grange.

In Computer Drawn Posters: 1- Pam Evankow of Lyme Grange.

There were no entries in the Junior Grange classes. The committee is planning this contest for another year.

We had numerous entries in the Best Single Article Contest. Our judges had a difficult time selecting the prize winners. The winning articles were submitted by: 1- North Stonington Community Grange #138; 2- Glastonbury Grange #26; 3- Old Lyme Grange #162.

At this time we would like to thank the reporters and editors of Connecticut's daily and weekly newspapers as well as several out-of-state newspapers. Outstanding Grange news stories have continued to appear in many of these newspapers. There are just too many to name at this time.

Worthy Master, the members of the Information/Publicity Committee would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve. All Grangers must now continue to Spread the Word to the public of all of the activities and community service work performed by the Granges and Grange members in the State of Connecticut.

Fraternally,

Carl H. Bernhardt, Director

Brian A. Carpenter

Cindy Legg

Geno Piacentini

## **REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Another year has passed, and one that has brought many changes. On the National scene a farm bill has finally passed. On the State scene we have seen the coming of the farmers market, and the local Grange scene we have seen many Grange fairs celebrating our agricultural roots.

The legislative activities of the Agricultural Committee have primarily fallen to the legislative committee. Brother Gordon Gibson has kept the Grange well informed with his articles in the Granger. As a result of this combination, we traveled together to the New England Leaders Conference in Portsmouth, NH as

our first activity of the year.

In March, the Connecticut State Grange was present at the Agriculture Day at the State Capitol with a display featuring our legislative work and our Fairs. Cookies furnished by Jon Hermonot and Grange pens were handed out. Those who attended were Gordon Gibson, Bob Brockett, Janet and Dick Healy, and Jon Hermonot (part time).

As the year wore on, it was time to begin our agriculture contest which this year entailed pumpkins. I would like to thank Morris Buck for procuring the seed, and Bob and Cindy Charbonneau for packaging the seed for each Pomona. This contest will be consummated tomorrow night when the winners will be announced. At that time we will also be giving our certificates to those Granges and Pomonas that have presented Agriculturally related resolutions for our consideration.

And now it is time to present our winners of this year's Farmer of the Year. This year we have two winners in two different categories, one for Outstanding Farmer and the other for Outstanding Professional Farmer.

We were pleased with the applications this year. In each case the nominee was known or had become acquainted with the sponsor. There was a connection that allowed the sponsor and nominee to understand the operation.

And so this year again as we present these plaques, we are going to ask the sponsors to come forward and present the material as it was presented to us, and I think you will agree that there are indeed still outstanding farmers in our state.

First, I would like to introduce Richard and Dorothy Wingate of Voluntown, CT as Outstanding Farmers of the Year. This nomination was presented by Stonington Grange #168 by Jeff and Debbie Barnes. I am asking the Wingates, Barnes, and Bob Charbonneau to step forward at this time where you will be provided with the review that was sent to us.

As the second award is about to be awarded, I would like to introduce Diana Matsuzaki of Colchester as our Outstanding Professional Farmer of the year. This nomination was presented by Colchester Grange and Joan Toomey as Master. I am going to ask Joan and Diana to come forward and Joan will give us the information that resulted in this nomination.

In closing, I would like to thank my committee for help these past two years. Bob Charbonneau, who will be leaving the committee for the Legislative Committee, has been a great help with his knowledge of computer technology and for arranging our meetings at Meriden Grange in the middle of the state. Also thanks to Jon Hermonot, especially for coming that long way, and for his "cute" cookies with the Grange logo attached at the State Agriculture Day at the Capitol. Thanks to both Dennis Rich and Morris Buck for their faithful attendance and for their sharing of their vast knowledge.

And that is the ending of our program this evening.

Fraternally,

Janet Healy, Director

## **REPORT OF THE CODE READING COMMITTEE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Again, it is my pleasure to report o you on the Code Reading Project. The project is set up to encourage Grange members to become more familiar with the unwritten work of our order.

Grangers who no longer confer degrees are required to have a program on

the ritual, on the night of inspection. A lot of information can be found in the Code Book that could be used for this program. I believe that at least one person in each Grange should be able to read the Code. This book is an important part of our Grange history. Years ago, in addition to the Schools of Instruction, Master/Overseer meetings were held. The purpose of those meetings was to learn to read the Code. I would like to see these meetings held again. By attending these meetings, I was able to learn to read the Code.

This year, I had two members who came to my home to learn to read the Code. They were excellent students. When they were tested, they both received a score of one hundred. They were able to read the entire book, and they did not make even one mistake. I congratulate them on a job well done. I also had the pleasure of testing one other member, who also did a good job.

At this time, it is my pleasure to present Dan Mutchler and Ron Purinton both of Lyme Grange, and Victor Salazar of Eureka Grange, with their Code Reading Card, which has been signed by the High Priest of Demeter of the National Grange, as well as our State Master. This card states "for demonstration of knowledge of the reading of the Code." I will also present them with the Code Reading Badge.

Worthy Master, thank you for letting me serve on this committee. I have enjoyed being on it.

Fraternally,  
Mildred Bell

## **REPORT OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It just does not seem like another year has passed since this Grange has met. I would at this time like to introduce my committee: Victor Salazar, J. Allen Cameron, and Marcia Gaspar and thank them for taking time to serve on the committee. Though many hours go into planning the program for the upcoming year it seems that we have less people that want to participate in the programs. Though there was no camping trip planned for this past year I have had suggestions to do one this year and I have received many other ideas at least year's session and I will try to plan some of them this year.

I would like to thank the Granges that have invited myself to visit on their youth nights I try my best to fit them into my busy schedule. I have been there to see the youth nights, participate in the youth nights and I have provided the youth nights, please help your Lecturer out and do one program for him or her at least one night a year and they will surely appreciate it.

Our annual Bowl-A-Thon was held back in March with 21 participants. Though all could not attend the bowling alley in Southington, a handful played at another alley and I accepted their scores. Included in this count were two visitors who were under 5 but had a great time. The participants were Robert and Marge Sendewicz, Denise and Diane Barbieri, Murray and Roger Newton, Ron Gunther, Marianne Nielson, Ed Borrelli, John Kirschner, Karen and Joshua Annis, Randy and John Miller, Marcia and Noel Miller, Ruth and Ken Herbele and Ted Beebe. The team with the highest score was John Taylor and Joyce Staiton with Denise and Diane Barbieri raising the most pledges.

I would like to say a special thank you to Pat Palmer for making the lasagna for the dinner for Grange Sunday. Even though we ran short on the salad, my fault, I had a strong feedback to repeat this dinner next year.

In July two other Grangers and myself traveled to Rhode Island and attended the entire Northeast Youth Conference. On Saturday other members from Connecticut joined us for the day at the conference. Though there were many workshops on team building I found myself attending meetings for the National Convention. We, as a region, worked on how to keep the youth involved in the Grange. We also discussed plans for the National Convention, being the first time that I had met Charlene Shupp Espenshade, we had many plans and share information.

Though I have received many achievement reports I have only received two youth night reports from a youth member and one participant in the young at heart category. These participants are Denise Barbieri from Watertown Grange in category I and Barbara Kulisch from Old Lyme Grange in Category 2.

I have received about 33% of the Subordinate Grange Youth Achievement Reports this year, slightly up from last year. The Granges that participated, Redding, Glastonbury, Meriden, Manchester, Wallingford, North Haven, Hillstown, Pachaug, Taghhannuck, Killingly, Watertown, Prospect, Lyme, Bridgewater, Old Lyme, Norwich, Echo, and West Suffield. Tied for the second highest scores are Cheshire and Hemlock and with the highest score was Ekonk Community Grange. In the Pomona category are Quinebaug, East Central, New Haven County, and New London County Pomona. Holding the second highest score is Central Pomona and the highest score is Excelsior Pomona.

In the scavenger hunt I had four participants and they all received the same score and I will present them with their participation certificates, Tisa-Lynn Wilson, Helene Forrest, Denise Barbieri and Kathryn Ruff.

In the category for the Grange that brought in the most new youth members I had a tie in the Subordinate level with each Grange bringing in two new youth members Ekonk Community Grange and Cheshire Grange. In the Pmoona are Quinebaug brought in four new youth members.

The youth that attended the most state sponsored youth activities was Denise Barbieri.

Last year I started looking for a youth member to participate in the National Grange Youth Officer Team that will open the National Session on Friday morning. Well, I really pushed Victor Salazar to give it a try. He thought about it and said maybe I will try for the secretary position. Well beyond my wildest dream, Victor stepped it up and will be the Master of the team and will open the National Session here on November 14. Good job Victor and I am sure the whole state will support you.

Worthy Master, having finished the first two years of my term, I look forward to serving another two years under your leadership.

Fraternally,  
Donald N. Lanoue, II  
Director

## **REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

At the Pink Sash meeting in November, the committee met again and discussed ideas to assist Granges to obtain members and stop the membership downward trend.

The committee agreed to once again share the responsibility of writing articles

for the Connecticut Granger. In so doing, a different viewpoint is presented each month.

In June, the State Master invited Rusty Hunt, Membership/Development Director of the National Grange to visit our state and share his ideas of what could be done to help struggling Granges. The State Master appointed a committee and meetings were held at Coventry and Beacon Valley Granges. A good night of discussion at both. A follow-up meeting was held at Good Will Grange in July and it was agreed at this meeting, that because attendees were busy planning for the National Grange session, we get these plans going the beginning of the new year.

We would like to congratulate Kay Ruff and the members of Glastonbury Grange on their successful Membership Day. It proved what a good idea and then putting these ideas to work can do.

In my report last year I said I was disappointed with the response to the membership contests. The number of reports received this year was not great- bit it did quadruple. The winners will be announced following my report. The contest period is June to June. We do need a report from your Grange to qualify.

As we start another Grange year, we wish you and your Grange a successful and healthy Grange year.

Fraternally yours,  
Joanne Cipriano, Director  
Ted Beebe  
Marion Bradley  
Cindy Charbonneau  
Carl Manning.

### **Contest Winners:**

#### New Members

1- Mountain County Pomona (6)

#### Subordinate Granges

1- Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 (46)

2- Glastonbury Grange No. 26 (10)

3- Stafford Grange No. 1 (5)

#### Net Gain

1- Ekonk Grange No. 89 (46)

2- Beacon Grange No. 103 (4)

3- Stafford Grange No. 1 (3)

#### Youth Members

1- TIE- Coventry Grange No. 75 (3); Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 (3)

2- Cheshire Grange No. 23 (2)

3- Stonington Grange No. 168 (1)

#### Junior Granges

1- Ekonk Community Junior Grange No. 101 (1)

## Poster Contest

1- Lois Evankow, Norwich

2- Anne Marie Knochenhauer, Norwich

## REPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Worthy Master and Patrons,

This past year has been one of great change for the Connecticut Granger. Late in July we were notified by our publisher, the Lakeville Journal that they would be closing their print shop and laying off their entire press staff. After searching the tri-state area, we found a new printer with Kwik Print of Great Barrington, MA. While it would have been nice to have a printer in Connecticut, I think we made the right decision. During the 18 years we were in Lakeville, they did a wonderful job for us but Kwik Print is able to provide a better quality product with the availability of spot color and sharper reproductions of photos.

I hope you enjoyed the National Convention issue. After putting together a 20 page issue, I have come to the conclusion that 12 pages is a perfect size. We thank Sister Joanne Cipriano and the Junior Committee under Brother Phil's term for making this issue possible.

We plan to use color again on special occasions in the future and will continue with the ongoing re-design of the paper as we move towards the 50th Anniversary of the Connecticut Granger in October 2009.

The biggest change this year was the recent loss of Sister Peggy Prelli. Peggy served first as Subscription Coordinator and then as Editor and later returned to the post of Subscription Coordinator. The Granger will reach its 50th year in large part to the efforts of Peggy. She worked tirelessly to build up the Trust Fund and to keep our mailing list growing. While I have been Editor for quite a while now, Peggy was always there to remind me when the Subscription Billing wasn't out early enough or when a certain address change didn't get posted. I will miss her greatly as I am sure everyone else in this room will.

As usual, the Christmas Greeting forms are available in the back of the hall along with Report Forms for Correspondents. Please be aware that all reports sent via regular mail should be sent to the new State Grange Post Office Box which is listed on the new forms.

Fraternally,

Todd A. Gelineau

President/Editor

Connecticut Granger, Inc.

## CONNECTICUT GRANGER FINANCIAL REPORT

The Connecticut Granger financial report has not been included in the Website edition of the Journal of Proceedings. For copies of this report, please contact Todd Gelineau, Editor/President of the Connecticut Granger.

## REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Our Installation states “We ask none to join us who cannot see good in his fellow beings, but to all interested in Agriculture, who have generous hearts and open hands to help the needy, raise the fallen, and aid in making the labors of this life cheerful, we say, Welcome to the Grange.”

Wow, do we believe in this!

Last year we had 38 Granges report 97,649 hours. Impressive, yes? Well, this year we had less Granges report, only 34. So we are down by 4 Granges reporting. We really hoped for a higher number reporting, but of Granges reporting they spent many hours bettering their communities, they gave 99,155 hours. Four less Granges gave 1,506 more hours. Outstanding, right? Well let's look at this a little further. these 34 Granges had 614 members participate, with 1,427 community members assisting. It is clear we have an opportunity here, better than double the number of community members, or, 1,427 prospective members we are meeting the needs of. Hmmmm, what are we going to do about that?

In Brother Sendewicz's Master's Address he referred to Community Service as “the backbone of our Order.” This is apparent in our Granges as they continue to support local food banks, blood banks, shelters, foster children, veterans, and our soldiers. Some Granges have exceeded the boundaries of their community and have extended a warm hand to our military personnel all over the world. No matter how simple or complex a project, if it betters your community, it is worth doing.

The judges this year had a difficult time with the entries they were given. In one class, only one point separated the first and second place. It finally came down to the first place winner had more media coverage. This is important. We need to be “tooting” our own horns here people. No one will know what excellent work is being done unless we tell them. I know some areas have trouble getting media cooperation, but let's put our teaching of the Fifth Degree to work and Hope and Persevere. We should be issuing press releases from this convention telling the media of the collective work being done by our members and communities. Let's stop being the best kept secret. Let's show our pride, let's boast a little, brag, hoot, chant, whatever your hearts desire, but let's broadcast our accomplishments to everyone.

Sister Jodi Ann and I want to thank each Grange that submitted a report; your hard work makes for even harder work for the judges. For which they appreciated, kind of.

Fraternally,

Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron

### **50 Members and Under**

- 1- Prospect Grange #144
- 2- Litchfield Grange #107
- 3- Old Lyme Grange #162

### **51 Members and Over**

- 1- Cheshire Grange #23
- 2- Ekonk Community Grange #89
- 3- N. Stonington Community Grange #138

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT  
2008

#	GRANGE NAME	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	NUMBER MEMBERS WORKING	NUMBER COMMUNITY MEMBERS WORKING	MEMBERS HOURS	COMMUNITY MEMBER HOURS	TOTAL HOURS
26	Glastonbury	41	13		2,057		2,057
31	Manchester	46	12		152		152
35	North Haven	44	14		1,096		1,096
48	Whigville	48	8		1,000		1,000
50	Westfield	25	10		1,120		1,120
51	Tolland	26	10		746		746
52	Vernon	34	11	6	405		449
78	Colchester	38	20	22	2,360	240	2,600
107	Litchfield	40	15	10	500	70	570
112	Killingly	41	25	5	5,629		5,629
121	Bethlehem	50	10		20		20
122	Watertown	36	10	3	887	38	925
134	Trumbull	32					
144	Prospect	44	28	18	5,301	1,938	7,239
151	Enfield	32	18	18	835		835
162	Old Lyme	36	23	4	4,067	12	4,079
197	Simsbury	28	9	3	3,995	180	4,175
		641	236	89	30,169	2,522	32,691
3	Redding	76	18		2,861		2,861
23	Cheshire	156	95	1,000	13,387	4,000	17,387
40	Senexet	70	15		2,074		2,074
62	Eureka	88	13	2	627		627
74	Winchester	205	14	2	655	12	667
75	Coventry	54	10	4	59	20	79
83	Totoket	65			26		26
87	Hillstown	67	15	30	4,810	1,045	5,855
89	Ekonk Community	155	51	68	11,207	628	11,833
103	Beacon Valley	78	22	16	8,689	3,100	11,789
110	Preston City	75	8		20		20
138	N.Stonington Community	128	29	40	2,737	500	3,237
146	Norfield	52	12	6	92	36	128
147	Lyme	95	50	150	3,939	700	4,639
153	Bridgewater	66	20				
169	Riverton	93	19	10	2,900	1,100	4,000
182	Hemlock	77	17	16	1,156	87	1,242
		1,600	390	1,344	52,377	11,226	66,464
17 Granges 50 and Under		641	236	89	30,169	2,522	32,691
17 Granges 51 and Over		1,600	378	1,338	52,285	11,190	66,464
		2,241	614	1,427	82,454	13,712	99,155

## HONOR GRANGE REPORT

All ten Pomonas and forty Subordinate Granges sent in their Honor Grange reports. Those that had the necessary amount of points will receive an Honor Grange bar. They are:

Central Pomona #1	Coventry Grange #75
Quinebaug Pomona #2	Colchester Grange #78
East Central Pomona #3	Hillstown Grange #87
Mountain County Pomona #4	Ekonk Community Grange #89
New Haven County Pomona #5	Taghannuck Grange #100
New London County Pomona #6	Beacon Valley Grange #103
Excelsior Pomona #7	Litchfield Grange #107
Fairfield County Pomona #9	Bethlehem Grange #121
Farmington Valley Pomona #11	Watertown Grange #122
North Central Pomona #13	Lyme Grange #147
Stafford Grange #1	N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138
Granby Grange #5	Prospect Grange #144
Redding Grange #15	Bridgewater Grange #153
Cheshire Grange #23	Old Lyme Grange #162
Southington Grange #25	Riverton Grange #169
Glastonbury Grange #26	Norwich Grange #172
Meriden Grange #29	Wolcott Grange #173
Manchester Grange #31	Echo Grange #180
North Haven Grange #35	Hemlock Grange #180
Vernon Grange #52	Oxford Grange #194
Wolf Den Grange #61	Simsbury Grange #197
Eureka Grange #62	W. Suffield Grange #199
Winchester Grange #74	Marlborough Grange #205
Harmony Grange #92	

Congratulations to all of these Granges for their great work in keeping the spirit of our Order in their communities.

### REPORT OF THE GENERAL DEPUTY

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been a pleasure to serve the Connecticut State Grange another year. Thank you for the privilege.

I personally attended the 2008 Schools of Instruction for Pomonas 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 11, and missed those for 3/13, 7, 9 due to other obligations.

My team of very able deputies and Pomona deputies completed their evaluations on Subordinate Granges and inspections of Pomona Granges in a capable manner. I thank you all.

I was called on to evaluate Lyme Grange #147, Prospect Grange #144, and to inspect New Haven County Pomona #5.

It was a pleasure to represent the State Grange on April 25th at the Community Citizen Award Presentation at Bridgewater Grange #153.

On September 14, I manned the Connecticut Room at the Big E.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Robert A. Buck

### **REPORT OF THE POMONA DEPUTY EAST**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has again been a pleasure serving as Pomona Deputy East in the past year. It has been a busy year starting out with attending National Grange Session in Reno, Nevada. I have been working with the Hosting Committee for the past year to host National Grange this year in Connecticut. Also I have been on Brother Jody Cameron's installation team installing Granges throughout the state.

During the past year I have inspected 4 Pomona Granges and 2 Action Granges. Most of the Pomonas that I inspected had candidates for their degrees. Again I wish to thank all of my Deputies for all of their hard work and a job well done and look forward to working with them in the future.

Fraternally,  
James Palmer

### **REPORT OF THE POMONA DEPUTY WEST**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been a pleasure to serve as Pomona Deputy West this past year. I have inspected five of the 10 Pomonas and have tried to visit as many Granges as possible during the year. I would like to thank Deputy East Jim Palmer for inspecting my own Pomona, Mountain County.

Overall, I think there has been an improvement over the past year in the quality of the degree conferrals that I have seen and many of the Pomonas are working hard to find ways to keep this level relevant in today's Grange. The Worthy National Master has promised to make Pomona a priority in the coming year and I am eagerly awaiting his report on the subject in this hotel next month.

I'm sure all of the Deputies agree with me in re-emphasizing the fact that we are here to help all Granges in any way that we can. Please don't hesitate to call us when you need any kind of assistance.

I'm also sure our State Master will agree with me that our Grange leaders must become more familiar with not only the Grange manuals, but also with the National and State Grange Constitution and By-Laws. The answers to many questions can be found in these volumes and a great deal of guidance in decision-making can be obtained by becoming familiar with them.

I would like to extend special thanks to Mountain County Pomona Deputy Earl Philips and Jr. Deputy Sandy Phillips for their work on some difficult issues during the past year.

Thank you again for the honor of serving the Connecticut State Grange.  
Fraternally,  
Todd A. Gelineau

## **SUBORDINATE/COMMUNITY GRANGE DEPUTY REPORTS**

### **REPORT OF CENTRAL POMONA No. 1**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

As Deputy of Central Pomona No. 1, I have been busy. I have inspected each of the Granges and have found each and every Grange to be in order.

I have found the Treasurer, Secretary and Committees to be in good working order. Each Grange extended a warm welcome.

I have also attended meetings outside of inspections. As always a warm welcome was extended and a good time. As always membership is always a problem and each Grange is trying different ways to attract new members. Hopefully next year I will be able to report that each Grange has had an increase in membership in their Granges and also in Pomona.

Fraternally,  
Jim Lamoureux

### **REPORT OF QUINEBAUG POMONA No. 2**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It is with pleasure that I write this report as Deputy of Quinebaug Pomona.

The Granges in the Pomona continue to be active participants in their communities and to improve their Granges. We have had several new members in the Subordinate Granges as well as Pomona membership.

I would like to thank the Granges in the Pomona for their willingness to try the new Evaluation process in place of the inspections. It seemed to be well received, though the Granges would like to know what the outcome of these evaluations was.

It has been a busy Grange year with the Brooklyn Fair, Jody Cameron's Installing Team as well as Echo Grange.

Fraternally,  
Pat Palmer

### **REPORT OF EAST CENTRAL POMONA No. 3**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

During this past year I have had the pleasure of attending and evaluating many different Granges. I started things off back in December 2007 by attending the Pink Sash Meeting at Good Will Grange Hall. Then East Central held its school of instruction, in which there was a fairly good turnout.

Starting in the spring of 2008, I began my evaluations of different Granges which consisted of Glastonbury #26, Manchester #31, Coventry #75, Marlborough #205, Enfield #151, Hemlock #182, and Tunxis #13.

Then on September 28, 2008, I had the great opportunity to volunteer for the Connecticut Room of the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Forrest

### **REPORT OF MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA No. 4**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Over the past year as Deputy for Mountain County Pomona No. 4, I have been very busy. I have visited with and evaluated all of the Granges in Mountain County,

except for my own Grange. I would like to thank Pomona Deputy West Todd Gelineau for inspecting Eureka #62. I have attended all Pomona meetings, and fundraising meetings in the past year. I attended all of the Pink Sash meetings, and helped at the Camp Berger Clean-Up Day, before the spring Pink Sash meeting. This past summer, I attended Grange Sunday and Let's Celebrate Day. I also attended the Big E, as a host in the Connecticut Room. I have attended two membership meetings, where we have met with Rusty Hunt, and planned how to help the Granges in Connecticut. I am looking forward to National Session this November, where I will be helping when needed. I would like to thank the Worthy State Master, Brother Bob Sendewicz for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Deputy for Mountain County Pomona.

Respectfully submitted,  
Earl F. Phillips

### **REPORT OF NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA No. 5**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

I have enjoyed my second year as Deputy for New Haven County Pomona and thoroughly enjoyed my visits to the Granges within my Pomona. I am continually amazed by the range of activities our Granges do and their participation in communities.

The Granges I visited this year were Cheshire, North Haven, Totoket, and our newest addition, Old Lyme. I also visited Southington Grange of Central Pomona #1. I would like to give a special welcome to Old Lyme and know they will be a great asset to New Haven County Pomona in the coming years. I tried to visit all our Granges in our Pomona at least once before their evaluation and have when my schedule allowed to visit other than on official visits. I helped Cheshire with a fundraising dinner in the spring and then with Southington in the late summer with their fair.

I also helped out with the annual Camp Clean-Up at Camp Berger and represented New Haven County Pomona at the Trustees meeting of the Pomona Masters.

I wish all Granges continued success this coming year and thank the Worthy Master for allowing me to represent him.

Fraternally,  
Daniel M. Lauttenbach

### **REPORT OF NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA No. 6**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been indeed an honor to serve as Deputy of New London County Pomona No. 6 during this past year under the leadership of Worthy Master Robert Sendewicz. I have made a point of visiting all the Granges in New London County. All inspections were held and I had the honor of inspecting Echo Grange for Sister Pat Palmer. I would like to thank Brother Jim Palmer for inspecting North Stonington #138.

Our School of Instruction was held at Norwich Grange in January. I have traveled around the state helping with installations for the Cameron/Barnes installing team. I have attended the Pink Sash meetings and Deputy School in Cheshire and a meeting at Good Will in the summer when Ed Luttrell came to speak to us. I also attended "Let's Celebrate Day" and on Grange Sunday attended the Grange Service and the Lecturer's talent contest at Good Will. In addition, I have

visited three other Pomonas this past year and attended the Rhode Island State Grange session to see them confer the Sixth Degree. I also had the opportunity to attend the 100th anniversary of Norwich Grange and march in at the Big E parade on Grange Sunday. I also had the pleasure of meeting with Rusty Hunt, the National Membership Director, to take part in the preliminary plans in making the Connecticut State Grange a stronger and better Grange. I have agreed to be part of this vital team.

In closing, I want to thank all that helped in making this job a pleasure to perform. I look forward to another year of being Deputy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Barnes

### **REPORT OF EXCELSIOR POMONA No. 7**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

I visited all the Granges in Excelsior Pomona at least twice during the year. I attended the School of Instruction held at the old Prospect Grange Hall.

Helped present awards in two Granges.

I did an evaluation at all Granges except Prospect Grange. General Deputy Robert Buck evaluated Prospect Grange.

Attended Grange Sunday and the membership meeting with Ed Luttrell.

I worked two days at the Big E Connecticut Room.

Helped to judge the "A Number" and talent contests at Central Pomona. I also helped at the Cheshire Community Grange Fair for three days.

I am participating in the State Grange Rose Drill.

Fraternally,  
Jean Meehan

### **REPORT OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA No. 9**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been a pleasure to once again serve as Deputy of Fairfield County Pomona No. 9. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Grange members for their kind assistance throughout the year. I would especially like to thank our Junior Deputy, Karen MacDonald, for her help and support.

This year, I evaluated all the active Granges in our Pomona, visiting them all several times. I hosted our School of Instruction, participated in Past Masters, attended Grange Sunday, "Let's Celebrate" and Grange Day at the Big E, and was active in many other events.

I would also like to mark the passing of two of my mentors in the Grange who passed away earlier this year- Paul Ziegler and Art Hanlon. They will be missed but not forgotten. In closing, I would like to thank you, Worthy Master, for the honor of serving as your Deputy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Miller

### **REPORT OF FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA No. 11**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

The time for making an annual report signifies the end of another busy year in Grange work. This is truly a fit time for serious reflections as I finish my fourteenth years as Deputy. As always, when we are doing something we enjoy, time goes by too swiftly.

We did not have inspections this year. Instead we had Evaluation Nights. I did five Granges in my Pomona. Brother Walter Forrest, Deputy of East Central Pomona No. 3, evaluated my Grange, Tunxis #13. Thank you, Walter, it is a pleasure to work with you and Helene.

Most of my Granges have a small attendance and have difficulty in filling the officers' stations at their meetings. Despite that, they try to do good Grange work. We have Granges helping other Granges beside their own, by affiliation. No Grange conferred degrees this year in our Pomona.

I set up a School of Instruction at Simsbury Grange Hall in January. The subject was the new policy of evaluating community Granges. We had twenty-one in attendance.

Besides serving as Deputy this year, I was Master of Farmington Valley Pomona Grange and Master of Tunxis Grange.

Again, I set-up the schedule for the seventeen days for the Connecticut Room in the New England Grange Building at the Eastern States Exposition. I thank everyone for their help and cooperation in volunteering their time.

My real life angels came through for me again this year. Maggie Schofield, Lin Erickson and Betty Jane Gardiner saw that I got to my evaluation nights. Bob Palen, Secretary of Simsbury Grange came to get me for their evaluation. Once again, thank you all for going out of your way to help me to continue my Grange work which I enjoy so very much.

In closing, to all the Granges I have visited and evaluated, I have sincerely appreciated your love and friendship during my many years as Deputy. Thank you all very much.

To our General Deputy Robert Buck, thank you for your help. I have enjoyed working with you.

Brother Sendewicz, it was an honor to be a member of your team as Deputy. Thank you.

Fraternally,  
Doris T. Shaw

### **REPORT OF NORTH CENTRAL POMONA No. 13**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

While carrying out the duties of Deputy this year, I again traveled outside of my own Pomona. The learning experience continues. The learning experience continues. The change from inspecting to evaluating Granges caused some confusion at first since members weren't quite sure what was expected of them. I found evaluating more difficult because of the various ways of conducting a meeting, while still complying with Grange protocol. While having degree work rated with a number system, I also think that each officer should be given a rating number for their conduct during the meeting. I hope this will be given more consideration.

Again I thank Master Robert Sendewicz for asking me to fill this important position.

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Percoski

## **REPORT OF THE JUNIOR DIRECTOR**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

I would like to open this Junior Grange report by recognizing the previous Junior Directors of the Connecticut State Grange. They are Alma Palmer Graham, Patricia Grandy Palmer, Debbie Barnes, Mildred Bell and Joanne Cipriano. I erroneously neglected to recognize them last year. I am so sorry, for without them the Juniors would have missed a lot. Thank you!!

In November of last year, we were able to purchase and have donated at total of 260 helmets which were distributed throughout the state. Each Pomona was given 26 helmets to pass out to where they felt they were needed most. I had some very good reports about the gratitude that was shown. Thank you for all your donations.

On June 23, 2008, Connecticut State Grange welcomed the reorganization of Hillstown Junior Grange #87. Thanks go to Connecticut State Grange Secretary Edith Schoell for playing the piano and to Quinebaug Pomona No. 2 Jr. Deputy Tom Perry and his wife, Debby, for helping me install the officers that night. The leaders of Hillstown Jr. Grange #87 are Helene Forrest and her daughter Michelle DeDominicis. Good luck to all and welcome!!

On July 26, 2008, the Junior Committee was please to serve lunch at Let's Celebrate Day. Thanks to Helene Forrest and Janet Haller for your assistance.

Barbara Robert is making the centerpieces for the Connecticut tables at the Junior Breakfast at National Session in November. Thank you Barbara!

I would like to thank all the Junior Deputies and their families and our State Master Robert Sendewicz and Sister Marge for all the help that has been given.

Thank you so, so much.

Fraternally,  
Joan Perry

## **JUNIOR GRANGE DEPUTY REPORTS**

### **REPORT OF CENTRAL POMONA No. 1**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It has been fun serving as Junior Deputy of Central Pomona No. 1. I helped the Deputy during his evaluations in all the Granges of the Pomona. Every Grange extended a warm welcome and a great night and time.

The Helmet Program went over very well and can hardly wait to do it again.

I did participate in a telephone conference with the National Junior Director and other Junior Deputies from all over the United States. It was very beneficial to hear other ideas.

I look forward to the following year!

Very truly yours,  
Lisa Lamoureux

### **REPORT OF QUINEBAUG POMONA No. 2**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Quinebaug Pomona No. 2 Junior

Deputy. I was able to help divide up and repackage the 260 helmets that were received so that Junior Director Joan Perry could deliver them at the Pink Sash meeting in November. I was also very pleased to assist with the installation of Hillstown Junior Grange #87. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Fraternally,  
Tom Perry

### **REPORT OF EAST CENTRAL POMONA No. 3**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

As a Junior Deputy, I had a busy year. I worked on reorganizing Hillstown Junior Grange. That goal was met on June 23.

I also visited several Granges throughout the year. I helped in the kitchen on "Let's Celebrate Day" in July. I also volunteered at the Grange building at the Big E on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Fraternally,  
Helene Forrest

### **REPORT OF MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA No. 4**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

It is with pleasure that I submit this report as Junior Deputy for Mountain County Pomona No. 4. I have attended all regular Pomona meetings and have assisted our Worthy Deputy with inspections and visitations whenever needed. I have attended all the Pink Sash meetings and helped on the dinner following Camp Berger Clean-Up. I attended State Grange Sunday, and had the opportunity to judge the baked goods at the "Let's Celebrate Day." I had the pleasure of hosting in the Connecticut Room at the Big E. I plan to attend National Session in November whenever possible. I would like to thank the Worthy State Master Bob Sendewicz for the privilege of serving as the Junior Deputy for Mountain County Pomona.

Fraternally submitted,  
Sandra Phillips

### **REPORT OF NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA No. 5**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

Throughout the 2007-2008 year as Junior Deputy I did attend the Pink Sash Meeting. I had the opportunity to help with the lunch at the "Let's Celebrate Day" in July. Also took part with the other Junior Programs at State Session. I have tried to promote Junior activity and projects.

I was very happy to take helmets to the Granges in my Pomona to go to many different groups.

Thank you for letting me have this opportunity.

Fraternally,  
Janet B. Haller

### **REPORT OF NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA No. 6**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

First, I would like to thank Master Sendewicz and Junior Director Joan Perry for supporting North Stonington Junior Grange #105 during its reorganization this past year. We began the year with only three active members after four Juniors turned 14 and two dropped out. Our leader and founder, Debbie Barnes, retired,

as her grandchildren were no longer involved, and I became the new leader.

We held craft meetings and did community service and recruiting to keep things going but were not given permission to hold business meetings until May. We held an art show and Christmas Party for the public at a local gallery in November, got an email address, sponsored the North Stonington Fair Doll Carriage Parade in July, and held a post fair clean-up. Juniors participated in the Big E Valentine's Contest.

Our efforts have paid off: we have eight new members with more prospects. Our Juniors are now on the younger side and we have a quorum so we should be in good shape for a while.

We began holding regular meetings through the summer. Meetings were well attended and attracted new members. This September our Juniors voted to change the time of our meetings. Our new official meeting times are the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 2:30 to 5:30. 2:30 to 3:30 will be high school and middle schoolers only, so it affords us an opportunity to work on more difficult crafts, such as CWA projects. We are hoping we might attract some youth members for the Subordinate Grange through the program. Honorary members Nizhoni Brown and Samantha Cullers (Youth Grangers) attend regularly and help out.

Due to my personal obligations in addition to running the Junior Grange, I have not been able to attend State Grange programs. I do not see any change in my obligations in the foreseeable future that will allow me more time to devote to the State Program. As such I would be happy to see someone else take on the Junior Deputy position, however, I will serve as best I can if called upon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vilma Gregoropoulos

### **REPORT OF EXCELSIOR POMONA No. 7**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

This year 27 bike helmets were given out to the Granges in our Pomona. Some went to schools or police and fire safety programs and some went to social services as gifts. Special collections at Pomona meetings raised \$120.00 for this year's helmet project. I attended the Connecticut State Grange Sessions in 2007, as well as, pink sash meetings, Grange Sunday and Celebration Day. I was able to work three days at the New England Grange Building at the Big E and donate handmade items for sale. This year I visited the Granges in our Pomona and reported on the Junior programs.

Fraternally,  
Barbara Robert

### **REPORT OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA No. 9**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

This has been a busy year with many interesting Grange activities. Since the beginning of October, 2007, I have attended many of my subordinate meetings and special events and fair: Neighbor's Night at Norfield and Cannon. I also attended the Christmas Fair at Harmony, silent film night at Cannon, and a celebratory dinner at Harmony for long-time members. Summer picnics included visiting Trumbull's special day. Nofield Fair was attended and enjoyed. Funerals and wakes were attended for Paul Ziegler and Art Hanlon.

Pomona activities included a Christmas program, the School of Instruction, Inspection with Fifth Degree, Talent Night and spring meeting. We also held a spring

tag sale. Geno and I each submitted a resolution, one on banning styrofoam, and the other on honorary Grange membership for farmers. I assisted Deputy Randy Miller with Inspections/Evaluation of Norfield and Trumbull. For the Junior Deputy special collection for the bicycle helmets, coins and donations by all members of Subordinate and Pomona were offered, many offered generous checks to represent the entire Grange. I entered the essay contest on "Why I joined the Grange." Am also serving now as the Pomona reporter for the Pomona.

State events included accompanying my husband, Pomona Lecturer, to the special meeting for Lecturers at Good Will Grange, attending the Cheshire Roast Beef Dinner, Grange Sunday (where we entered an original skit that I wrote for the "A Number" contest and won second prize for "How Does Your Garden Grow?" On Let's Celebrate Day, my quilted wall hanging came in first place, and was entered at the Big E where it came in second. We visited the Big E and appreciated all that the New England Grange Building has to show and offer. Have just enjoyed the pre-session banquet as we close this year, and I'm looking forward to assisting Junior Director Joan Perry with our duties for Friday night and Saturday.

My appreciation is extended to Marge Sendewicz, Randy Miller, and Geno Piacentini for all that they do to support me.

Respectfully,

Karen Macdonald

### **REPORT OF HILLSTOWN JUNIOR GRANGE**

Worthy Master and Patrons,

On June 23, 2008, Hillstown Grange held its first Junior Grange meeting. At this time Joan Perry did the honors of obligating and installing the 13 members which consist of 4 boys and 9 girls. Then on September 9, 2008, Robert Sendewicz presented its charter.

During the short time of being a new Junior Grange, the children have had the opportunity to participate in some of the different contests at the state and national levels. They have also had the chance to visit Project Oceanology, go on a hayride, and make their way through a corn maze. Then at the Hillstown Grange Agricultural Fair the children had their own table. With the money they raised from their table, 10% was earmarked for socks for the local homeless shelter.

We also showed them how honey is made in the beginning of September.

Fraternally,

Helene Forrest

## SUMMARY OF ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS

1. Quarterly Reports	Rejected
2. State Grange Office	Adopted
3. Funding of Annual Sessions of the National Grange	Adopted
4. Reimbursement to the Elected Members of the State Grange Executive Committee	Adopted
5. The Kelley Farm	Adopted
6. Subordinate Honor Grange Award	Rejected
7. Exact Listing of Grange Halls/Meeting Places	Adopted
8. Territorial Honor Grange Points	Rejected
9. Farmer's Market Listings	Rejected
10. Grange of the Year Award	Rejected
11. Campaign Funds	Rejected
12. Management of State Grange Accounts	Rejected
13. The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007	Rejected
14. Update Local Grange Accounting Methods	Rejected
15. Selling Grange Halls	Adopted
16. Sales Tax Exemption	Adopted
17. Sales Tax Holiday	Adopted
18. "Honorary Grange Membership" Certificate for Conn. Farmers	Adopted
19. Elimination of Styrofoam Products in Food Industry	Rejected
20. Cottage at Camp Berger	Rejected
21. Farmer's Market Listings	Rejected
22. Highway Tolls	Rejected
23. Invasive Plants in Connecticut	Rejected
24. Seasonal Roadside Stands	Adopted
25. Master's Address	Adopted
26. Subordinate Honor Grange Award	Adopted
27. Cabin at Camp Berger	Adopted
28. National Convention Funding	Adopted
29. Invasive Plants in Connecticut	Adopted
30. The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007	Adopted
31. Elimination of Styrofoam Products in Food Industry	Adopted
32. Investigation Into the Pricing of Diesel Fuel	Adopted
33. Connecticut's Three Strike Law	Adopted
34. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture	Adopted

## ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

### 2. RE: STATE GRANGE OFFICE

WHEREAS the State Grange office expense for rent and utilities is over \$15,000. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the office be moved to a location, such as in a Grange hall, where rent and utilities could be less and help a Grange by giving them a donation.

### 3. FUNDING OF ANNUAL SESSIONS OF NATIONAL GRANGE

WHEREAS the cost of hosting the annual session of the National Grange continues to rise, and

WHEREAS the National Grange has divided the country into several regions for purposes of determining where each session of the National Grange shall be held, and

WHEREAS some of these regions will have difficulty raising the necessary funds to host the National Grange in their region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each State Grange be assessed fifty (50) cents per member per year to be paid to the National Grange, including Golden Sheaf members who are exempt from paying dues, to defray the cost to the State Granges of hosting the annual sessions of the National Grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each State Grange shall have the authority to raise their assessment in any manner they choose, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proceeds of such assessment be made available to the host Region each year to reimburse its reasonable actual expenses for hosting the National Grange, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if any funds from such assessment remain after all host region expenses of each annual session of the National Grange are paid, the remaining funds shall be placed in a dedicated account for use in reimbursing the host Regions in future years.

### 4. RE: REIMBURSEMENT TO THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE STATE GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS Article IX, Section 1 of the 1999 Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange provides that, "The elective (sic) members (of the Executive Committee) shall receive for their services \$7.50 per day each while in actual discharge of duty, and mileage payment at 27 cents per mile round trip," and

WHEREAS the elected members of the Executive Committee frequently discharge their duties on an "as needed" basis in units of an hour or less, and

WHEREAS this creates difficulty in determining the number of days each year for which the elected members of the Executive Committee should be compensated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the last paragraph of Section 1 of Article IX of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange is hereby revised to read, "The elected members shall receive for their services and mileage \$250 each annually."

### 5. RE: THE KELLEY FARM

WHEREAS the Oliver H. Kelley Farm, a restored living history farm

in Minnesota which belonged to the founder of the Grange is most worthy of our support, and  
WHEREAS the Friends of the Kelley Farm was formed in 2003 to help preserve and support the operation of the Kelley Farm.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange, in commemoration of Oliver H. Kelley's birthday each January, take out a Family Membership (\$50.00), and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer and Executive Committee be resourceful in finding the money.

7. **RE: EXACT LISTING OF GRANGE HALLS/MEETING PLACES**

WHEREAS visiting Granges should be encouraged and finding their meeting places should be made as convenient as possible, and  
WHEREAS locating these halls/meeting places are often done by using Mapquest on the internet and other G.P.S. (global positioning systems).  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each Grange be asked to make sure they have provided the State Grange office their hall/ meeting place street number and name so this complete information can be listed in the State Grange Directory as well as listed on the State Grange website, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this information is also provided to the publishers of the Pomona handbooks.

15. **RE: SELLING GRANGE HALLS**

WHEREAS there are Granges where the membership has declined to the point that the members find the maintenance of a Grange Hall causes a large burden on the small numbers of members participating, and  
WHEREAS this condition causes present Granges to consider selling the Grange Hall at the present low market value of real estate, and  
WHEREAS a large portion of the sale value goes in the State Grange for safe keeping as a result of National Grange regulations.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Grange investigate the possibility and feasibility of creating a completely separate Connecticut Grange Historical and Educational Corporation which can directly take over the Grange Halls and make them available for educational activities and historical museums related to Grange History and the arts of agriculture and the home.

16. **RE: SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS the 6 percent sales tax has been on purchases of shoes and clothing costing over \$50.00 for many years, and  
WHEREAS inflation has risen the price of shoes and clothing over these many years, so that a purchase now of \$50.00 results in less shoes and clothing.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange ask the Governor and our State Representatives to raise the \$50.00 amount to \$100.00 at the next legislative session.

17. **RE: SALES TAX HOLIDAY**

WHEREAS the annual sales tax holiday on shoes and clothing for purchases below \$300.00 runs one week in August, and  
WHEREAS parents of children who attend school buy shoes and clothing at times other than in August, and

WHEREAS some stores in the month of August change the clothing from summer to fall and winter and summer clothing is desired.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the sales tax holiday be extended to include a week in July also and that this week be selected by the General Assembly.

18. **RE: "HONORARY GRANGE MEMBERSHIP" CERTIFICATE FOR CONNECTICUT FARMERS**

WHEREAS the Grange has its roots in agriculture, and

WHEREAS Connecticut has a declining number of farms with less representation of farmers in Grange membership, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange is attempting to increase public awareness of the organization's mission and purpose through increased publicity and promotion, and

WHEREAS the "HONORARY GRANGE MEMBERSHIP" certificate could be designed and printed by computer and would identify the recipient(s), name and location of the farm, the date and signed by the State Master in office on that date, and

WHEREAS the "HONORARY GRANGE MEMBERSHIP" certificate would be a form of recognition and appreciation only, with no cost or obligation to the recipient(s), and would be a one time occurrence, and

WHEREAS Subordinate Grange members would identify recipient(s), request a printed completed certificate and present the certificate to the recipient(s), and

WHEREAS an invitation would be given to the recipient(s) for presentation to be made at a local Grange meeting and the certificate be available for public viewing, and

WHEREAS upon presentation, a photo be taken and submitted to local papers including the Connecticut Granger with suitable caption.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in an effort to recognize existing Connecticut farms, the Connecticut State Grange design and establish a method for distribution for the certificates in conjunction with the appropriate Subordinate Grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Master appoint a member of the Agricultural Committee for supplying the certificates, reporting the details of the issued certificates to the Connecticut Granger for publication, and to keep a list of farms recognized each year as recipients of the certificates.

24. **RE: SEASONAL ROADSIDE STANDS**

WHEREAS Connecticut consumers continually seek healthful and safe produce, and

WHEREAS domestic and imported produce has not always met these standards, and

WHEREAS the seasonal fruits and vegetables of our Connecticut small and backyard farms have a long history of meeting the consumer's needs in both quality and safety, and

WHEREAS some towns require buildings and parking lots which is cost prohibitive to small or backyard farms, and

WHEREAS the current Farmer's Markets do not satisfy the small stand farmer as to locations and hours.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Legislature be requested by the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee to enact

such legislation that permits roadside stands on all state and town rights of way (Except thru-ways - i.e. four lane roads).

25. **RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS**

WHEREAS the Master of the Connecticut State Grange has reported to the 124th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange through his printed and spoken Master's address of the complete activities and actions of the Connecticut State Grange, and

WHEREAS much time and thought was invested in the preparation and writing of this report, and

WHEREAS we thank the Worthy Master for his leadership in directing the State Grange into the future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we commend him on this fine report, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the body accept this report with great thanks and order it printed in the Journal of Proceedings of the 124th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

26. **RE: SUBORDINATE HONOR GRANGE AWARD**

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange recognizes each Subordinate Grange as an "Honor Grange" who earns 4,000 points or more, and

WHEREAS the Subordinate Grange earning the highest number of points will be known as "Grange of the Year," and

WHEREAS it is hard for the under 50 membership Granges to compete against the 51 and over membership Granges for the "Grange of the Year" award, and

WHEREAS the 51 and over and the under 50 membership categories worked well for the Community Service Project this year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Master consider this possibility for the 2009 year.

27. **RE: CABIN AT CAMP BERGER**

WHEREAS one of the cabins at Camp Berger was built by Pioneer Pomona #12, and

WHEREAS North Central Pomona #13, not having a cabin of their own, assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the cabin when Pioneer Pomona #12 merged with Fairfield County Pomona #9.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of Camp Berger have an additional sign made and placed on the cabin stating: "Built by Pioneer Pomona #12."

28. **RE: NATIONAL CONVENTION FUNDING**

WHEREAS the funding of National Grange Conventions has become a regional responsibility, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange will be required to contribute annually to the hosting fund, and

WHEREAS having the State Grange raise these funds through fundraisers would be much more favorable than an additional assessment on our Subordinate Granges, and

WHEREAS the current National Hosting Committee is only responsible for the 2008 National Convention.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State Master appoint a standing

committee charged with the responsibility of raising the necessary funds required to meet our National Grange Convention funding obligation.

29. **RE: INVASIVE PLANTS IN CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS many of our roadsides are being overrun with Japanese Knot Weed and other invasive plants and the trees are being choked out by the Bittersweet Vines and dying, and

WHEREAS if these plants are not stopped, the native plants in our state will be overrun and disappear forever, and

WHEREAS information on eradication of these plants can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, County Extension Service or the Department of Environmental Protection.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange encourage its Community Granges to provide a program to educate its citizens on the local level of the threat of these invasive plants and methods of their eradication.

30. **RE: THE U.S. CADET NURSE EQUITY ACT OF 2007**

WHEREAS in 1943, as a solution to the critical shortage of nurses in the military and in essential civilian hospitals, Congress passed "The Bolton Act" which established the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps (USCNC) to be administered by the U.S. Public Health Service, and

WHEREAS while the graduate nurses and doctors joined the services and went off to war, the Cadets staffed Federal military and civilian hospitals, Indian reservations, public health and rural health services all over the nation, and

WHEREAS the Cadets joined a uniformed service in time of war under the command of the Surgeon General of the United States and were issued uniforms, insignias and an I.D. card with a serial number, and

WHEREAS the WACS, WAVES and WASPS, who also served on the homefront, have been recognized as veterans of World War II.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the nurses of the USCNC deserve to be recognized for their contributions to our nation during World War II and for the decades that followed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support the passage of legislation to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Veterans Administration including HR 3423, The U.S. Cadet Nurse Equity Act of 2007, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next session of the National Grange together with a recommendation for favorable action thereon.

31. **RE: ELIMINATION OF STYROFOAM PRODUCTS IN FOOD INDUSTRY**

WHEREAS styrofoam material has poor ability for biodegrading, and

WHEREAS Connecticut has concern and appropriate approaches in the management of disposed waste at landfills, and

WHEREAS there are numerous alternatives, such as paper/cardboard products and recyclable plastics are available for the food service industry, including fast food establishments, and

WHEREAS styrofoam products including "take out" containers could be

substituted with environmentally friendly disposable or dishwasher safe items that are reusable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange request the Connecticut General Assembly to pass legislation to encourage biodegradable or recyclable products to be used in the food service industry.

**32. RE: INVESTIGATION INTO THE PRICING OF DIESEL FUEL**

WHEREAS diesel fuel used to be priced considerably less than gasoline, and WHEREAS gasoline prices are coming down to much lower levels than before, and

WHEREAS diesel prices have remained at least over a dollar per gallon higher than corresponding gasoline prices, and

WHEREAS the economic lifeblood (e.g. food and other consumer goods) is primarily carried across our nation by vehicles using diesel fuel, and

WHEREAS this puts an increased burden on small business and small farmers all across America which is ultimately passed on to the consumer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Grange encourage our National Department of Energy to investigate the continued high price of diesel fuel.

**33. RE: CONNECTICUT'S THREE STRIKE LAW**

WHEREAS violent crimes and home invasions continue to escalate in our country, and

WHEREAS our judicial system has become more discretionary in sentencing the offenders, and

WHEREAS government has the duty to protect its citizens, and

WHEREAS the earlier three strikes proposal failed in the Connecticut General Assembly last year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange support a three strikes law which will remove judicial discretion at sentencing so that a felon with a third conviction for a violent offense would receive an automatic life sentence.

**34. RE: THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS the State of Connecticut is experiencing a decline in expected revenue due to the present economic conditions, and

WHEREAS the General Assembly must, by law, pass a balanced budget for each biennium, and

WHEREAS the Governor has directed all State agencies to reduce spending, and

WHEREAS within the last ten years there have been proposals to eliminate the Department of Agriculture as a State agency and divide its functions among other agencies, and

WHEREAS it is essential to Connecticut's agriculture industry that we have a strong Department of Agriculture.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange urge the State of Connecticut to maintain its Department of Agriculture as a State agency with adequate funding to accomplish its statutory responsibilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee is authorized and requested to oppose any and all proposed legislation that would cause the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to

become part of another State agency or would otherwise diminish the stature of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and  
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee is authorized to take any lobbying or similar action it deems appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this resolution.