



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 64, No. 4

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

January 2024



From the Master's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

As I write this, the winter solstice and season are approaching in about three weeks. By the time you read this, it will be winter time. The trees have lost their leaves and migratory birds are mostly gone. While grass is still green, it won't be for long. Our Grange ritual tells us in the Fourth Degree to picture a farm in winter season wherein we may rest from our toils of the year. One of the symbols is the feast which brings to mind family gatherings for the holidays.

As nature makes a regression of sorts as things go dormant, it reminds me of the sanctity of life and how we should be thankful for every day.

Respect the fraternal teachings of the Order that it may increase the harmony among us; let petty squabbles fall away and work

together without disagreement. We don't all agree all the time, but let us work better together for the good of the whole.

The sanctity of life is made apparent as we mourn those who have left us. I had the opportunity to attend calling hours and funeral in early December for Brother Mark Prelli of Riverton Grange #169 who went to the Great Grange Above after battling health issues for a number of years. We can learn much from other people by observing those who have lived their lives well and what they have done for their family and others. Even though they have passed, we retain the memory of them and the lessons they have shared with us from the accomplishments of their lives.

A National Leaders'/President's Conference has been scheduled for February 16-18 in Myrtle Beach, SC at the Sun-N-Sand Resort. Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron were asked by National President Chris Hamp to do a presentation on our Leadership

Academy. This conference will be my first such event; the last having been held on Zoom.

Northeast Leaders' Conference is to be held January 12-14 in Concord, New Hampshire. It will be great to share ideas and meet with the Masters/Presidents, and other leaders in our region. We have a good contingent from Connecticut attending the weekend and I hope everyone brings home useful information to share. Pray for good traveling weather!

The Connecticut State Grange had a net gain in membership in two of the four quarters of 2023. This was quite a pleasant surprise to gain instead of posting membership losses. While small, I hope to see this continue.

Leadership Academy 2.0 will be announced shortly. It promises to be set up a bit differently than the 1.0 version with longer meeting times and fewer sessions. There will also be homework assignments for attendees to complete to reinforce principles presented in lesson sessions. In addition, keep posted for a program

...Continued on page 3



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due Jan. 15

From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

on Leadership Training which will be open to all interested in principles of leadership whether they are officers, committee members, or even interested members who want to learn more on this. All are welcome in both of these programs and we hope for good enrollment numbers.

The plaque to mark the Grange Plot in People's State Forest has been ordered and received thanks

to all the donations made to this project. The boulder on which it is to be mounted has been properly oriented and land around it cleared to make it visible. Notice should be coming or will have come by the time you read this of the dedication ceremony to be held as this is revealed to the public. Thanks to Dave Roberts for spearheading this project.

The National Grange has received a grant from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for a program called Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors (RRSS). As you may know, those in rural areas lack adequate access to healthcare. Joan Smith of the National Grange Foundation will be traveling to Connecticut to present this program which we were introduced to at the National Grange Convention. The RRSS program involves sections intended to help guide people to better prepare them for needed surgery. Another section involves information about planning for the future as one is ageing. The State Lecturer is helping to organize getting Joan here and setting up the program.

Cawasa Grange #34 will turn in their charter soon. Whether we can reopen a Grange in that area remains to be seen. We are exploring options to aid Stonington

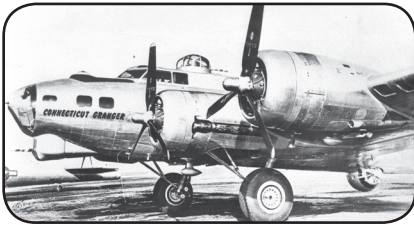
Grange #168 and Groton #213. Whether this means commencing a membership development campaign or considering a merger of some sort, both preferred options to turning in a charter and closing the door on a Grange. State officers, and the Membership Committee are involved and this will be discussed at an upcoming Board of Directors meeting. The Connecticut State Grange did post a small net gain in membership for the year which is positive. We must keep on trying to attract new members to the Order. More on this as things develop.

Remember the Membership Matters webinars on the third Weds. of the month by Membership Director Amanda Brozana-Rios, and the Communications webinars by Communications Director Phil Vonada on the third Thursday. Links can be found in the National Grange website. These are great places to connect with Grangers across the country and get new ideas and share your ideas with others. You don't need to reinvent the wheel. Let others share what could work in your Grange with you by just listening in and participating in these programs.

Watch National Grange as I am sure that with new leadership you will see some new ideas and philosophies presented. Change is a necessary entity if we are to succeed. As much as we all have our comfort zones, we must evolve.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

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

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **15th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
100 Newfield Road
P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

(USPS 563-220)

the Connecticut Granger

is published monthly for \$10.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc.
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Periodicals postage paid
at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094



National rolls out program



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Connecticut State Grange members had a wonderful time attending the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls. While the fellowship and learning opportunities were plentiful, so much was learned about the future of our beloved organization which just celebrated its latest birthday on December 4th.

First, I would like to introduce our newly elected National Grange Lecturer, Tom Gwin, from the State of Washington (attached photo). In addition to now serving as our National Grange Lecturer/Program Director, Tom is also the President of Washington State Grange. Tom is planning to continue the current National Grange Lecturer programs in 2024, while looking for a new cornerstone project. I hope all of you will get an opportunity to meet Tom and share your program ideas with him. I plan to host Brother Tom on a future Connecticut State Grange Lecturers Roundup.

We held a very successful EIGHTH Lecturers Roundtable on Sunday, November 19th. Much information was shared and attendees appreciated the updates. Here is the link to this latest information-packed Roundup if you happened to miss or attended and wanted to review the information: 8th Lecturers Roundup - November 19, 2023 - YouTube. We plan to host our NINTH virtual Lecturers Roundup on Sunday, February 18th, at 7:00 PM. Zoom information will be sent out to all interested folks; and remember that these Roundups are not JUST for Lecturers, but for all who are interested in sharing and/or learning more about Grange

activities that could impact your local or Pomona Granges.

One item discussed on our latest Roundup was the launching of an exciting new initiative at the 2023 National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, called “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors” or “RRSS” for short. This program is funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) federal engagement grant awarded to the National Grange. Joan C. Smith, from Potomac Grange #1, serves as the RRSS Program Manager. At the invitation of National Grange, I am serving as the Northeast Region POC for this RRSS initiative for the next two years.

So, what is the problem? Well, rural America is underserved by our nation’s healthcare system. There are fewer doctors, especially specialists, per capita, many rural hospitals are in danger of closing, incomes are lower and employers less likely to provide health insurance, distances to care are greater, and there is less broadband access to medical information and virtual office visits. And older rural residents requiring surgery have less access to care and may be less informed on how to participate in their care and about treatment options.

What is the solution? The Grange, founded in 1867, is the largest and best-known community organization in rural America; it conducts a variety of social, service, and educational programs and is a leading advocate for rural interests. The National Grange has developed and is disseminating a user-friendly “Pre-Surgery Guide – Question Prompt List” that can be utilized to talk to your doctor/surgeon and “Planning for My Future Guide” that can be utilized to talk with your spouse/partner, family, caregiver to help provide your plans and desires for your future. All

information can be found at www.seniorsurgeryguides.com.

And why should you or your Grange care? In addition to providing valuable information to your Grange friends and your community, you can also be one of the first 250 community Granges to earn a \$100 incentive payment just by supporting this initiative. All you have to do is report in May and October of 2024 the total number of people you influenced through any three of the following activities:

- Conduct a Grange Program
- Conduct a Public Forum(s)/ Program(s)
- Provide the RRSS Video/Guides to three other organizations (Church, Senior Center, VFW, Clubs, FFA, 4H, etc.)
- Have a display at your Fair and handout guides
- Provide information on social media or local media.

All five activities would provide value to you, your Grange and your community, but you only have to report on three activities to qualify for an incentive payment. Incentive checks will be presented at the 2024 National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa, which I plan to attend and I hope to see many Connecticut State Grange community Granges being awarded an incentive check. This is a great way for Lecturers to earn funds for programs at your local Grange. Need help; just ask and I will get you help!

President Rob Buck and I hope to host RRSS Program Manager Joan Smith here for a State-wide program at one of our centrally located Grange halls in early 2024. Watch for updates on this opportunity to learn and share.

In closing, I hope everyone is energized for an exciting New Year 2024 filled with hope, promise and opportunities to make our communities better for all. Please let me know if you need any help for your Grange or a speaker, as I enjoy visiting other Granges as your State Grange Lecturer.

Settling down for winter



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

A new year has begun and we are all settling down for a nice winter indoors. Well, at least I am! I've been working on my projects and hope you are as well. February 3rd at 1:00 will be a Family Activities Zoom meeting. I will only be having

1 this year as the second one usually conflicts with other committee zoom meetings. I hope to see you all! You don't have to be a chairman to join in the meeting, I have opened it up to anyone who would like to join in.

Have you tried to make this year's baking recipe? It's actually really good and would make a nice refreshment for those of you who are meeting in person. Also, please don't forget to make your donations for our 4-footed friends as this is the time of year when donations are

really needed.

If you are making a big pot of soup or stew, why not bring a container over to someone and sit and visit a while. Consider making this a weekly or bi-weekly trip and bring your needlecraft projects along. Nothing like good company to make someone's day brighter.

As always if you have any questions email me at any time at familyactivities@ctstategrange.org or dawnrose1432@gmail.com On behalf of the Family Activities Committee, we wish you all a safe and Happy New Year.



View from the Hill

by *Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director*
WASHINGTON OVERVIEW

Welcome to the New Year where it's anything but happy on the political front in Washington. Congress left town for the holidays without a deal for aid to Ukraine and Israel which was tied to new border controls along our southern boundary. This Achilles Heel for Congress will still be on Congress' agenda for January. So will funding the federal government when the stop-gap funding measure runs out mid-month. Congress agreed to budget spending caps for fiscal 2024 in the legislation that raised the debt ceiling earlier this year, but this agreement may not survive new stopgap funding negotiations in January.

The House has formally approved a Biden impeachment inquiry on a vote along party lines. Biden son Hunter's legal problems continue to mount. Biden's age comes up in practically every reelection discussion. The President's approval rating is worst of modern-day presidents seeking reelection at this point in the election cycle according to Gallup. Former President Trump appears to have a lock on the Republican presidential nomination right now. However, former South Carolina Governor and former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley is closing the gap a little on Trump heading into New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary on January 23. Trump continues to juggle campaign stops and court ap-

pearances. Congress passed and the President signed the \$886 billion annual Defense Department authorization bill to keep the Pentagon operating for the remainder of fiscal 2024. Former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy leaves Congress at the end of the year. His departure will further squeeze the already razor-thin House GOP majority. As migrants continued to cross the Rio Grande in record numbers, U.S. Customs and Border Protection closed border rail crossings for five days to divert attention to processing the surge of migrants. These rail crossing closures temporarily disrupted the supply chain for farm commodities, consumer goods, auto parts, finished vehicles and chemicals.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD

House votes to allow whole milk back in schools

On a huge bipartisan vote of 330-99; the House passed the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act which calls for whole milk and 2% milk to again be allowed in school lunches. House Agriculture Chairman G. T. Thompson entered 15 academic studies from around the world into the legislative record which supported whole and 2% milk in children's diets. An amendment by Representative Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin would assure USDA continues to allow flavored milk for all grades. A recent study found that removing flavored milk from kindergarten through fifth grade resulted in a 62% reduction in milk consumption. The bill faces tougher opposition in the Senate where several influential senators are concerned about Congress interfering in school lunch standards. National Grange policy strongly supports whole and flavored milk in school meals.

USDA considering foreign land ownership update

The Department of Agriculture, under intense scrutiny for its lack of accuracy in reporting foreign land ownership, is considering updates to its foreign land reporting form. The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires foreign investors to file a form with the Farm Service Agency in the county where land is purchased that details number of acres, buyers' country of origin, purchase price, and intended use of the land.

Continued next page

Grange supports ag and food research.

The National Grange and 44 ag, food and consumer groups are calling on the administration budget and scientific offices to consider the significant challenges to our food and agriculture systems as they prepare the fiscal year 2025 budget for USDA. Funding requests would cover the Agriculture Research Service (USDA's in-house research agency), the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (external research at land-grant colleges, experiment stations, schools of forestry, schools of veterinary medicine and cooperative extension), the National Agriculture Statistics Service, and the Economic Research Service.

HEALTHCARE

Ag in focus at international climate meeting COP28.

The 28th annual climate Conference of the Parties (COP28) meeting of 200 countries in Dubai, United Arab Emirates added a focus on agriculture this year. The U.S. message to COP28 was that farmers and ranchers can address climate change using a "climate smart" approach that does not sacrifice production. Instead of calling for the elimination of animal agriculture in the name of climate change, the session accepted the fact that sustainable production of animal-source foods is at the heart of climate and food security solutions, especially for developing countries. Among other actions, nearly 200 nations agreed to transition from fossil fuels.

Poll says adults are concerned about climate change.

A new CNN poll conducted by SSRS shows that more than half of U.S. adults are worried about the impact of extreme weather including extreme heat, devastating storms and drought. Most adults say humanity bears a great deal of responsibility to reduce climate change. Nearly all Democrats, 76% of independents and half of Republicans say the U.S. should slash its greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2030.

Ensure senior access to pharmacist care.

The National Grange cosigned letters to key decision-makers in the Biden administration and Congress urging passage of the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (H.R. 1770, S.2477). The legislation would provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B and ensure pharmacists can continue to protect seniors from the threat of COVID-19, flu, RSV, strep throat, pneumonia, and hepatitis B. Senior access to critical services at the pharmacy is a great benefit to rural residents who may have limited access to quality health care.

Help rural hospitals stay open.

The newly formed congressional bipartisan Rural Health Caucus aims to give rural hospitals better financial stability. They are encouraging the adoption of the Assistance for Rural Community Hospitals Act (H.R.6430). Introduced by Miller(R-WV) and Sewell (D-AL), the proposed legislation would extend both the Medicare-dependent hospital program and the Medicare

low-volume payment program for five years which are essential to help struggling rural hospitals experiencing higher percentages of patients on Medicare.

TAXES

Death tax repeal introduced.

The Death Tax Repeal Act of 2024 has been introduced by Representatives Randy Feenstra (R-4-IA) and Sanford Bishop (D-2-GA). The National Grange joined 71 agricultural, rural, small business and other family-owned business groups in expressing appreciation to Feenstra and Bishop. National Grange policy supports repeal as the best way to protect family-owned businesses from the estate taxes.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Secure the future of Affordable Connectivity Program.

The National Grange continues to advocate for funding to extend the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that provides financial assistance to families in need connect to the internet. Newly-elected National Grange president Christine Hamp wrote the leadership of the Senate and House committees of jurisdiction in December reiterating the need to connect rural families and communities and to finally close the digital divide in rural America.

Pole attachment disputes finally get FCC action.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has voted to increase transparency for new broadband build-outs and to set up a dedicated team (the Rapid Broadband Assessment Team) to speed up the resolution process for pole attachment disputes. The team will screen and mediate disputes between utility and telecommunications companies that could hinder broadband deployments, particularly in rural areas. The National Grange has repeatedly petitioned the FCC for such action for the past two years.

Broadband funding coming to states.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 included \$42.5 billion for broadband internet access as part of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD). This differs from previous federal broadband programs in that it allocates funding to individual states and allows them to figure out the best way to distribute these funds. States are now working with the federal government to develop plans for how they will use these funds. The legislation requires locations defined as unserved and underserved receive first priority for broadband deployment funding. Around 11.8 million rural and urban locations are considered unserved or underserved. Unserved locations currently have no internet or have speeds below 25MPS downstream and 3Mps upstream. Underserved locations have speeds below 100Mps downstream and 20Mps upstream. The National Grange was very active during the legislative process to make sure the law directs the unserved be served first, the underserved next, then all others.

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

At the 139th Connecticut State Grange Session we had 28 resolutions presented to the membership. We had resolutions on a Code of Ethics for the Supreme Court, Fixing Student Loans, to allow refinancing or forgiveness, a cap on college tuition, stronger cyber security for hospitals, Granger by email, recycling centers and paper recycling. While all of these did not pass they all had great discussion by the members. The Code of Ethics for the Supreme Court did not pass, as members stated it is not for us to dictate rules for the Court, the Supreme Court did present a Code of Ethics in October, just on paper with no one in charge of overseeing the Codes.

In November, the House selected another Speaker, Micheal Johnson of Louisiana. He says he is a Christian Nationalist, and his strength is what he finds in the Bible.

He is a pro-life follower and supports the fall of Roe v Wade. His thoughts are that if all those babies weren't taken, we would have the next generations of workers, so Social Security would be funded by those workers, and the population would not be in decline. But Mr. Speaker, what if Congress passed an immigration program that processed all those seeking asylum and given a chance to enter legally, to work the farm jobs, cleaning and dishwasher jobs, and all the others which none of us care to do. And while these hard working people get the chance to become good citizens, they also will pay taxes to help pay for Social Security. Just a thought.

The Government is on a band

aid budget as the house kicked the can down the road. Since the last writing Israel was attacked by Hamas (a Terrorist Group in Palestine) and 240 Israeli hostages were taken and thousands of children, concert-goers, parents and grandparents were killed by these terrorists. Israel is fighting back and many hostages have returned, yet others are still held. This war has destroyed much of the Gaza Strip and killed many Palestinian people trapped between Hamas and the Israel troops. Hopefully this will stop soon.

Ukraine is still fighting off Russia and still needs NATO's aid to take back their country. They are asking for aid that we as a nation has promised to them, yet many members in Congress are back-pedaling from our promise. Ukraine has proven to the world that Russia is not the Super Power we all were told they were. Under Putin's leadership the military has been robbed, stripped down, not maintained, supplied with inferior clothes, weapons, meals, electronics, China's reject tires, and many other war items. We thought they were the best military might but little Ukraine has shown the world that Russia is not a power nation. We need to get back in the game and support these brave Ukrainians and get their homeland

back.

2024 is here and the elections are in November. As Grangers we must look at our founding fathers who have laid the pathway toward the light. Our organization being founded after the Civil War, on the principles that we encourage all to join us and there is a place for all. We welcomed women to join us and have four offices that only women can fill. We fought for women's Right to Vote in 1919, many Grangers work hard to get this done. When we all entered the Grange, we have all taken a oath to obey the Constitution of the United States. Connecticut had one Grange black ball a potential member twice because he was a Tavern Owner. We all pledge to uphold these values that a Good Granger is welcomed to our family.

This coming election many lies and truths will fill our networks, social medias, newspaper, friends and family members. Do your own research, and ask what would the Seven Founders do if they were here today, our what would Jesus do. Democracy is so delicate like a new flower that needs to be cared for and nursed to bloom. The choice is yours and remember that obligation we have all taken through our Grange time. Your action will affect you, your parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Happy New Year





New Year's Reminders

Terri Fassio, PR Co-Director

It's a new year - and the perfect time for a few reminders from the Public Relations Committee.

The Virtual Social Hours will continue in 2024! The first one will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM. The theme is "2024: A New Year - Setting Goals: Time For A New Grange Outlook". No Virtual Social Hour will be held in February, but the schedule will pick up again March 28th.

The Connecticut State Grange History Book Project has moved into the next phase of typesetting and layout. If you have anything outstanding, particularly if you are writing a biography of a Past State Master, the information needs to be submitted ASAP. Any bios of Past State Masters not received will be written as we will not leave out any of those who served, but we preferred to have it submitted to us.

Now is the time to start planning your activities for Grange Month. Grange Month is held annually each April. Need help generating ideas for a project or open house, or with execution? Contact Shelley and the Membership Committee as they are waiting to lend a hand. membership@ctstategrange.org.

Need help promoting your upcoming Grange events and activities? Contact the Public Relations Committee for assistance (just be sure to not wait until the last minute - the more time we have, the better we can facilitate the promotions). publicrelations@ctstategrange.org and information@ctstategrange.org

Does your Grange have a Facebook Page? When is the last time you posted an update? We know that some Granges have not posted an update in months, and in some cases, even years. It only takes a moment to say hello and announce when your next meeting or event will be. Need help navigating the

new Facebook administration tools? We can help!

Thinking of setting up a Facebook Page for your Grange? Please contact the Public Relations Committee for assistance before you dive in - to make sure that you follow the guidelines of Facebook and the CT State Grange Social Media policy. We prefer to setup the page for your Grange, and then turn it over to your Grange to manage, to ensure that your page will get the most likes and views.

Is your Grange interested in expanding its Social Media offerings beyond Facebook? Platforms like Instagram, X (Twitter), Threads, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest and more can be beneficial tools for promoting Granges. Contact information@ctstategrange.org for all the details.

Looking for signage for your Grange? Give the Public Relations a call! We can work with you to help fulfill your signage needs. We can produce everything from lawn signs to banners of all sizes, to die-bond and metal signs, and much more.

Looking for custom T-Shirts for your Grange? This is a great fundraiser! Contact CT State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau or Public Relations Co-Director Terri Fassio for all the details. Small quantities available. Shirts come in a range of sizes and colors. We will work with you to create a custom design just for your Grange.

When is the last time your Grange had a custom brochure? All of the promotional pieces (brochures, posters and flyers) we offer can be personalized for your Grange. Looking for something even more tailored to your Grange? We can make that happen too! Contact the Public Relations Committee for details.

Drop us a line. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

JANUARY 2024

NATIONAL GRANGE EVENTS

TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP
JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR THESE EVENTS!

	ALL TIMES EASTERN		ALL TIMES EASTERN
<p>5: FELLOWSHIP FIRST FRIDAY 8:30 P.M. Connect: grange.biz/firstfriday</p> <p>A new program! Join us for this fun NEW monthly program - a time for fellowship, thought-provoking conversation, and the chance to connect with Grange members from coast to coast! Includes a short program, activity, and time to socialize around topics of your choice. January topic: Soup! Join us with a bowl in front of you; a recipe of your favorite with you to share; some quick cooking tips; and play our Grange Alphabet Soup game</p>		<p>17: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS 8:30 P.M. Connect: grange.biz/matters</p> <p>Now on a new night! Join Membership/Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios for this monthly time to learn about various membership challenges and growth opportunities.</p>	
<p>14: JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER 9:00 P.M. Connect: bit.ly/JibberJabberZoom</p> <p>Join National Junior Grange and Youth Development Director Samantha Wilkins for updates about the National Junior Grange department. Contact junior@nationalgrange.org for more information.</p>		<p>23: COMMUNICATIONS ZOOM-TORIAL 8:30 P.M. Connect: bit.ly/GrangeZoomtorial</p> <p>Join Communications Director Phillip Vonada and some Fellows as we explore various topics in the world of marketing and communications. This month will be on interview tips and tricks and connections with local media outlets. Questions? Email pvonada@nationalgrange.org</p>	

JUNIOR GRANGE FOCUS AREA:
ADVOCACY
YOUTH FOCUS AREA:
RITUAL



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Jan. 4: “Happy New Year to All” meeting 7:30 p.m. Ref. Tom Breen & Kay Ruff

Jan. 18: Social Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 1: “Hearts Signify LOVE” 7:30 p.m. Ref. Andy & Beverly Bell, & Dan Posuniak

Our January 18th gathering is open to the public. We will invite a couple of neighboring Granges to join us. also.

We have invited Terrell Lavoie with Blue Hill Too to speak to us and demonstrate making Goat Soap. Terrell is from Lebanon and is a school teacher in Manchester. She also raises goats. This should prove to be an interesting evening. Following Terrell’s presentation, refreshments will follow. Anyone interested in attending this event just call me so that we can be sure to have enough refreshments for all. Telephone # 860-481-7007.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Jan. 24: Winter Safety

We continue to keep ourselves busy. A very successful Thanksgiving pie sale. Lots of orders from the members of the community. The hall is used by several groups including yoga and line dancing. A wonderful Holiday Festival was held in Woodstock and many vendors were able to use our hall for their sales.

Many folks from the community visited the hall and also bought bowls of our tasty minestrone soup. Our Grange was part of the stamped passport program for the Festival. The kids were encouraged to make cards for the nursing home residents. There were also other crafts for the kids. We will be having a Christmas pie sale. This includes many kinds of pies. We continue to encourage others to join us. Plenty of things to do. Our facebook page is active as is the Woodstock Proud site. Hope to see other members and friends visit us. See us soon.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 5 or 12: Short program on Zoom

Feb. 1: Bluebirds - Zoom

March 1: Family Activities Program –Nancy for refreshments

March 7: Vernon presents at Coventry Grange.

Small turnout for the Dec. meeting, 5 attending and 3 on zoom. December is one of those busy months with events. We persevered and made the best use of our time. We missed our Lecturer Cherie who was in the hospital and sincerely hope her stay there is a short one. Cards were addressed and sent to all our non-attending members and ditty bags were filled. More than 200 small hand-made ornaments were collected to distribute to the local nursing home patients. Thanks to all who worked hard on that project. Our next two meetings will be on Zoom (unless we have a heat wave). Winter is the perfect time to work on all those contest entries. The Lecturer and Family Activities and Agriculture Committees all have great contests. Knit a sweater, take a photo, plant a garden. Do something!!! Read the blue book and if you don’t have one check out the on- line version at CTstategrange.com , or contact a committee member or last resort – the State secretary, Todd Gelineau,.

You’re not handy, donate your time, make a donation, find something to add to that community service report, the point is NOW is the time, don’t waste it. Spring will be here before you know it. We wish you all a safe and healthy New Year.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

The Killingly remains active and very busy in the next coming year. We host square dancing the First Friday of the month- evening at 7:00 pm. The dates will be Jan 6, Feb 2, Mar 1 and Apr 5. Join us to dance or just to watch. We will also host a bluegrass concert every 4th Saturday, doors open at 6:30 and music start at 7:00pm for the following dates Jan 27, Feb 24, March 23, and April 27. To conserve on heating cost we will have our monthly meeting the same afternoon of the blue grass concert at 2:00 pm. We have some delicious menus planned for future dinners. We will let you know the dates in the next news letter. Stop by we would love to see you!! We hope you all have a very happy new year!!

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Jan. 12: French and Indian Wars (1754-1763)

Jan. 26: Snow date for January

Our program on November 10 was titled “The Pilgrim expansion to King Philips War”. We learned the difference between a Pilgrim and a Puritan (Most of us never knew there was a difference). We also learned about the Mayflower Compact and life in Plymouth Colony. With Foxwoods Casino (owned by the Mashantucket Pequots) and the Eastern Pequot reservation both “in our back yard”, the Pequot Wars were of significant interest to us. Sue does a great job on these programs. Why not come out and join us some evening. We still meet at 8:00. And if that big ol’ bear found wandering less than a mile from our hall will just wander someplace else next time we’ll tell you all about delicious December.

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.



Italian Herb Chicken

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 14 minutes
Calories: 180
Ingredients: 7

Ingredients:

- 1/4 Cup olive oil
- 1/4 Cup red wine vinegar
- 1-1/2 teaspoon McCormick Perfect Pinch Italian Seasoning
- 1 teaspoon Lawry's Seasoned Salt
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/8 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cayenne Red Pepper

Instructions:

Mix all ingredients, except chick-



en, in small bowl. Reserve 3 tablespoons marinade for brushing. Place chicken in large resealable plastic bag or glass dish. Add remaining marinade; turn to coat well.

Refrigerate 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor. Remove chicken from marinade. Discard any re-

maining marinade.

Broil or grill over medium-high heat 6 to 7 minutes per side or until cooked through, brushing with reserved marinade halfway through cooking.

Recipe from McCormick.com

Upcoming Pomona Meetings

Eastern Connecticut Pomona No. 14

March 2 - "Bluebirds" @ Glastonbury Grange, Masonic Hall, South Glastonbury

May 4 - Special Meeting for Fifth Degree @ Killingly Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15

March 2 - Regular Meeting @ Riverton Grange Hall

May 4 - Special Meeting for Fifth Degree @ Winchester Nutmeg Pomona No. 16

March 17 - Fifth Degree/Inspection @ Cheshire Refreshments by Greenfield Hill & Wallingford

June 2 - Election of Officers @ Beacon Valley Refreshments by Beacon Valley

Whigsgiving Celebration



Whigville Grange members and friends celebrate "Whigsgiving" in November.

Melt the Winter Blues
with a hot
Meatball Sandwich

\$10 includes drink, chips, & cookies

Saturday, January 13, from Noon to 2



at The Wallingford Grange #33
586 Center St. Wallingford, CT





MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mountain Laurel Pomona wishes all a Happy New Year. We will not meet again until Saturday, March 2 at Riverton Grange Hall (2 PM).

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Jan. 9: A New Year- Ref. by Sandy & Earl Phillips

Jan. 23: Under the Stars- Ref. by Peter & MaryLou Keefe

Winchester Grange continues to enjoy the mild winter season having held all regularly scheduled meetings. In early December we held a well attended Teacup Auction and were approached by a community church about using our hall on a weekly basis for their church services. Unlike some other Grange/Church arrangements, this group is aware that Winchester Grange is primarily a Grange Hall and will remain that way. At present, it seems like a good fit and we will try out the arrangement at the beginning of January and see if it works for both organizations. If it does work out, the Grange Hall will continue to work for the Grange generating more income by fully utilizing our facility.

While heating oil has been a burden for us, insurance has become an equal burden and this rental income should help greatly.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Jan. 14: Three Magi by Debra Tyler Ref. Debra Tyler

Feb. 3: Grange Square/Contra



Members of Granby Grange gathered for a Christmas Party in Dec.

dance 7:00pm-9:00pm by Dance Committee

Feb. 8: All About Love by Ruth Schnell Ref. Ruth Schnell

March 14: In Like a Lion by Barbara Prindle Ref. Bill Beeman

Note: Refreshments & Social Time at 7PM with meeting at 7:30pm and meeting at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

At 7PM before our regular December meeting, as part of the Lecturer's program, we all brought 4 dozen of the same kind of cookie and made cookie plates for Social Services to distribute. We also made-up plates to bring to members who cannot get out to meetings. Thank you to everyone who could not make our December meeting who dropped off their cookies earlier in the day.

At our meeting we had a discussion about community service and what is and is not counted for our Community Service Report. It was decided that we would report our hours at each monthly meeting, so the committee chairman did not have to make as many phone calls at the end of our Grange year.

Again, Barbara Prindle donated the \$100 check made out to her that went to each member of the State Membership Committee as a personal "incentive bonus" for State Net Gain in membership for the past quarter of the year. There was a discussion about payments to committee members

and volunteerism. We also voted to do the Dictionary Project for our 18th year. We give each 3rd grade student in Sharon, Cornwall, Kent and Warren "The Best Dictionary for Students" to keep. They put their name in the sticker saying From Taghannuck Grange and take it home with a letter to the adult at home telling them why we do this. We also discussed the Resolution that did not pass at Grange Session about Food Distributors Fees. Master Chris said it is ironic that Debra Tyler's food co-op this past month met the minimum amount needed to be ordered by a small amount and the distributor did not deliver the order because they calculate "differently". Chris is checking that one of the IGA grocery stores also did not get their delivery. We will be setting up a committee to get all the facts and begin collecting more information for next year's resolution to State Session.

Most of the program happened before the meeting but for the rest of the program we had the gift exchange/grab bag to take home along with a plate of cookies. Everyone helped clean up and we wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please attend our dance on February 3rd and make some new friends. Each dance is walked through, and all ages are welcomed. The dances may not be done

Continued next page...

“perfectly” but laughter abounds. Suggested donation is \$5 child, \$10 adult and \$20 family which includes refreshments provided by our members.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

We hope that everyone had a very best Holiday season.

A very interesting lecturers program entitled “The turkey” was given by Carol W. during our November meeting.

At the CT State Session, Bethlehem Grange received a Congratulating Award from the National Grange for earning 2nd place standing for CT Community Service.

Cheryl and Ray Johnstone attended the CT State Grange 2-day Session and reported that they enjoyed it tremendously.

We are going to have a new CT Community Service Project for 2024.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: David Roberts

Jan. 5: Meeting & Program via ZOOM ONLY: Riverton Grange’s 116th Anniversary Celebration; 7:00 PM

Jan. 7: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted, 06063); 6:00 PM

We continue to mourn the loss of former Riverton Grange and Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange President Mark Leonard Prelli. Brother Mark had a tremendous impact on our Grange and region and will be greatly missed.

Despite this tremendous loss, Riverton Grange members have been super busy with a number of impactful community service activities. TEN of our members attended the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls where our Grange was named both an Honor Grange and a Golden Grange in Action. Members brought items to National Grange for their homeless service project.

On Thanksgiving Day, members Judy Doyle, Chris Wright, Raine

Pedersen, Natalee and Dave Roberts delivered 39 homecooked meals to neighbors in need. On November 25th, over 50 veterans and their guests were served a complimentary ham dinner prepared by Grange members at the Barkhamsted Senior Center for our Annual Veterans Appreciation Event co-chaired by Lecturer Raine Pedersen. Over \$1,000 was raised and donations were made to both the Riverton American Legion Post #159 and Barkhamsted Senior Center.

On November 26th, over 2,000 used American Flags were retired by 30+ volunteers in our 6th biannual American Flag Retirement Ceremony with support from Riverton American Legion Post #159 and Granby American Legion Post #182. On December 1-2, Riverton Grange hosted its annual Tree Festival in conjunction with Christmas in Riverton chaired by Sister Dawn Anstett. Over \$750 was raised for the Pleasant Valley Community Food Bank and over 100 pounds of non-perishable food items. Our new Veterans Exhibit was on display during the Tree Festival and received rave reviews from attendees. Finally, Riverton Grange worked with the Riverton and Barkhamsted Lions Clubs on Project Amazon to distribute items to over a dozen separate non-profits in our



Riverton Grange Festival of Trees

area including Pleasant Valley Food Bank, Barkhamsted Senior Center, Riverton Vol. Fire Department, Barkhamsted Elementary School,

Continued next page...



Riverton Grange/Riverton American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony

and Waste Not Want Not.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

We are all happy to ring in a new grange year! Our December 2023 meeting was held on December 14th. Festive dessert items were passed around for all to share. We were pleased to have Paul Burnham, President of the Association of Connecticut Fairs as our special guest. He presented the Simsbury

Grange with an award for First Place in Grange Fairs 2023 ACF Website Contest and Fifth Place in Printed Material 2023 ACF Promotional Contest. Thanks to the ACF for these awards. It was a pleasure to have Paul at our meeting. Please come back any time, Paul. Other items discussed were the receipt of a CT Neighborhood Assistance Act award in the amount of \$3000.00 to go toward conservation and energy efficiency, repair of a cement step by

a local contractor and considerations for siding our grange building. We also voted on the donation of gift cards to our town social services organization. These cards will be added to donations given out to families in need for the holidays. Also discussed was the collection of food items at two upcoming events after the holidays to help replenish the town's food pantry. Advertising for a dance series and seed swap will be coming soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Conn.

I would like to thank the Connecticut State Grange for sending me to the 157 Annual National Grange Convention as your second delegate. I got to meet people from all over the country. Standing up on the floor and defending are resolutions that we sent to National. Like Maintaining Options for consumer use of computer-base technology. This got rolled in with others of the same wording (passed). Student Loan Correction (pulled), Artificial intelligence this got roll over with others (passed). Healthcare security, this got rolled in with others of the same wording (passed). Assembly of Demeter Titles, this was rolled in with others a committee was form to come back next year. I was on Labor/Judiciary/Transportation. We had a few long nights working. But it was nice to see so many Connecticut Grange members there. As your Community Service person, I would like to thank Vernon Grange #52 for there participant award at the National Grange contest. I also like to thank Coventry Grange #75 Junior Plus One members for taking 3rd place in the National Grange. We need every Grange in are state to send back there community service report that was sent to you by Todd. Please send back your community service hours even if you don't want to do the book.

Thank you,
Ted Powell 3rd

New additions to the Ag Comm.

The Agriculture Committee has three new members. Kristen Donihee, Chloe Donihee and Violet Donihee have joined the committee. There is a new contest this year - an education display for members. Put a picture of livestock like pigs, cows, birds and others along with a story on what they are made for. They will be judged at State Session in October.

We are also looking for nominations for the Agriculture Committee Awards presented at State Session. The categories are Professional Farmer Award and the Outstanding Professional Award. We are bringing back the pumpkin decorating contest to be judged at State Session.



OPEN MIC
at the
OXFORD GRANGE
482 Oxford Rd Oxford CT

MONDAY JANUARY 15

SIGN UP AT 6PM MUSIC AT 6:30PM

Especially welcomed- Horns, Sax, Percussion, Violin. Spoken Word

ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS EVERYONES WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS AVAILABLE

DRUM KIT AND AMPS PROVIDED

GOOD MUSIC GOOD VIBES

An 'In House' Production
Hosted by David Foster and Dan Golias
You can rent The Grange. Call/Text Rich 203-521-5806

With a little help from our friends at.
Oxford Cultural Arts





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

A popular winter song starts “Oh the weather outside is frightful”. That’s how the weather was for our December Pomona meeting. The drive over was rainy and foggy but light – the ride home was all of these but dark and dreary. If it had been snow, we would still be shoveling. But inside everyone was in the Christmas spirit and ready for our meeting and Christmas Party. Attendance was smaller than usual but you can’t fault members for not coming in that kind of weather.

Lots of Christmas packages. A nice country store and everyone participated in the grab bag. Delicious refreshments, served following the meeting by the members of Cheshire Grange, made it a good day,

We were sorry to receive the resignation of Roy Harrington, Steward and Betty Jane Lady Assistant Steward. Aili McKeen of Wallington Grange was elected L.A.S. The Steward’s position is still open – any volunteers.

Our next meeting is March 17th with a Degree rehearsal on March 10th. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Now is the time to line up your candidates.

We hope your Christmas Holiday was enjoyable and this will continue into year 2024.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Jan. 3: Omitted

Jan. 17: Legislative/Ritual Program

We finished 2023 on a favorable note. Our treasury was stabilized with our very successful August Fair and a fund raising dinner in late fall. We will be making our decision as to meeting downstairs as we did last year to conserve on our heating oil expense. Our local AA group once again utilized our hall for their holiday Christmas and New Years Alkathon. We are looking forward to 2024.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Aili McKeen

Jan. 11: North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

Jan. 13: Chase away the winter blues with a hot meatball sandwich! Noon to 2 pm.

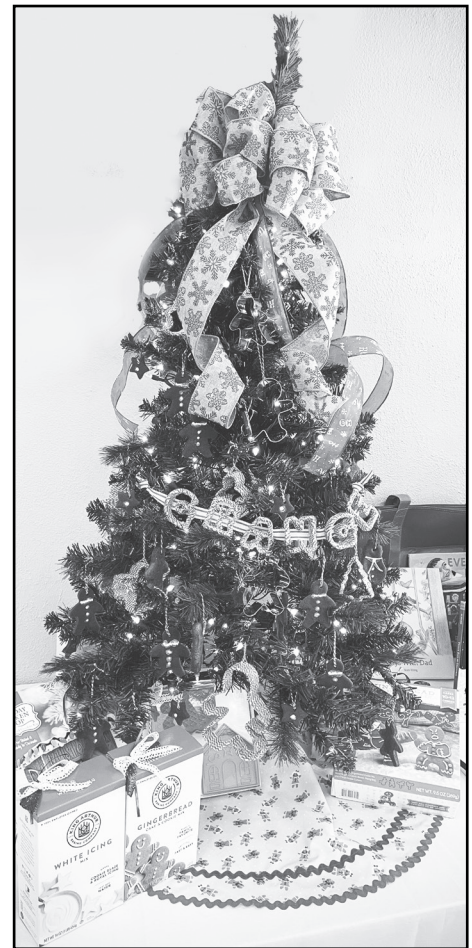
Jan. 15: Fair committee meetings resume

Feb. 8: Meeting: Assembling birthday cake kits for Master’s Manna Food Pantry. Bring donations of cake mix, frosting, candles, etc.

The big news around Wallingford is our lovely and watertight new roof! We’re quite excited to have the heat turned on for the first time in 3 years, so we will continue to meet at the Hall throughout the winter.

In December, we made and donated a decorated Christmas tree to the Coalition for a Better Wallingford’s Festival of Trees. Several members hand-made ornaments and accessories for the Gingerbread-themed tree. The Coalition raffles off the trees to support their substance abuse awareness and reduction programs. Likewise in December, we hosted a local Boy Scout troop’s wreath sale on our front lawn, and we held a bake sale in conjunction. The December meeting, we had a cookie swap.

Lecturer Kathy Bergonzi has planned a Scavenger Hunt for January, in addition to the regular meeting program. I don’t have details yet, but they’ll be announced



Wallingford Grange donated a decorated Christmas tree to the Coalition for a Better Wallingford’s Festival of Trees.

on our Facebook page. Speaking of Facebook, we also have a group (Grange No 33 Wallingford) and we have several chat groups on WhatsApp for communication between members.

Our meetings are second Thursdays at 6:30 pm, and everyone is welcome. There is invariably a country store and we always have nice items. The Meatball Sandwich Lunch is open to the public, \$10 for the sandwich, a bag of chips, and beverage of choice. Conversation is included free of charge. We’d love to see you.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our December meeting and Christmas Party was a fun evening. Starting with a delicious pot luck supper (spiral ham, two kinds of

potatoes, baked macaroni, shrimp cocktail, chili, vegetables and dessert). The blessing was offered by Woodbury Baptist Minister Peter Ventura.

Supper was followed by a short meeting and then some fun. The program included a game of "Nickles" which was enjoyed by everyone especially the winners Ron Gunter and Peter Ventura. The grab bag ended the program.

Our members were happy to receive first place in the Community Service and the check for \$100.00.

Our next meeting is January

12th – program "Pears" in charge of the CWA Committee – Marianne Neilsen, Ron Gunther, John Taylor and Pat Fischer. Bob Sendewicz is in charge of refreshments. We will be meeting in the lower hall during the month of January and February on the third Saturday at 2 o'clock.. This follows our monthly tag sale and open mic. from 9 to 3.

We have started working on our 135th anniversary celebration to be held in June.

While you are making your New Year's resolution why not include the Grange. For the stay-at-home

members plan to attend one or two meetings. Be realistic – make it a resolution you can keep. We would love to see you.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 12: Boy It's Cold Outside

Jan. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Feb. 9: Sweethearts

Feb. 23: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us uncover the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



For December's Photo: Ray Fitch answered "This is a photo of members from Norfield Grange. On the left is Francis Bennett, next to him possibly Jimmy Demario, then State Master Frank Warner, then Lillian Holzhausen, Betty Fish and Tom "Tommy" Phillips, and in the background is Ethel Keene." We also heard from George Guidera as well.

Christmas at the Grange



Lighting the Whigville Grange tree



Whigville Grange Hall



Ekonk's tree at Sterling Town Hall



A cozy scene at Senexet Grange Hall



Cannon Grange's Christmas Tree



Ekonk Community Grange Holiday Bazaar

100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Address Service Requested

Brotherhood & Community



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

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133

“And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” Matthew 22

In many contexts brotherhood and community are synonyms; they both refer to working together for a common purpose. A similar word is “family”. God calls all of us to live together in unity, as a world-wide family, and to recognize that we are meant to treat each other as brothers and sisters. And yet, as we look at the world around us it is obvious that we fall far short of this standard. From horrendous international conflicts to both verbal and physical conflicts within our own country it sometimes seems that lack of brotherhood is the dominant theme.

I do not pretend to be an expert as to what causes this state of disruption, but it seems to me that in many cases the greed and desire for wealth and power of a few individuals is used to incite others to hate and violence. This is most obvious in Putin’s attacks on Ukraine, but is also present among political and [I hate to say it] some religious leaders in our own country.



We, as individuals, must learn to turn our backs on those who incite hatred, and instead follow God’s instructions to see the good in all our fellow human beings. I implore you, brothers and sisters, to turn your backs on the purveyors and preachers of hate and violence. God loves all his children, imperfect though they are, and wants us to do so also. Look for the good in others, forgive their imperfections, and hope that they, in turn, will forgive our own imperfections, for we are all guilty of things we should not have done, or in neglecting things that we ought to have done.

Remember the words of the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Also the song in our Grange songbook:

*Let there be peace on earth, And let
it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth, The
peace that was meant to be
With God as our father, Brothers
all are we
Let me walk with my brother In
perfect harmony*

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone that signed or sent cards to me extending their best wishes on my current health issue. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Ben Barr

In Memoriam

*Let us remember all
Brothers and Sisters
lost in 2023*

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”