



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 64, No. 12

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

September 2024

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President
Bethlehem Grange No.121
president@ctstateGrange.org

"It is delightful to acquire knowledge and much more so to diffuse it." Thus says the Lecturer in the Third Degree. This is so true. On Saturday, August 24, I helped out at the Greenfield Hill Grange Fair with a table of some of my birding references and talked about birds. I shared my ideas of the mental process I use when birding in to identify what I see in two separate talks. People seemed to enjoy this and asked questions and shared their ideas.

In the meanwhile, during calmer moments, I have been reading "Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars" by Col. Eileen M. Collins, USAF (Ret.) who was the first woman to command a space shuttle mission. Wow, what an energetic and driven individual. Reading this makes me feel like a slouch! If each of us had this drive, imagine where the Grange could go with this type of energy. It certainly gives one a goal for which to aim.

On the subject of acquiring and diffusing knowledge, to go one step further, I have relearned the Sixth Degree and rehearse it daily in order to share it with the assembled delegates and candidates at our 140th Annual State Session soon. As I go over it, I come to appreciate the

beauty of the ritual and the meaning of its lessons more and more.

On that subject, our convention is coming up fast. I encourage as many of you as are able to register and attend even if not a delegate to see the workings of your Connecticut State Grange. Make sure that your Grange is represented. Submit your resolutions on any topics of importance to you or your Grange. There are guides on resolution writing available. Ask any state officer and I'm sure they will be glad to help you with how to compose a resolution if you are unsure. This is your chance to have an effect on our world starting from the grassroots and working upward. There will be much good socializing and work done at the Session.

The Big E or Eastern States Exposition may well be started by the time you read this. Thanks to Noel and Ted for their work on preparations being made for the fair. The vaccine booth will be hosted by

the New England Grange Building again this year. A new platform has been built facing the New England state buildings for the vaccine booth. Supplies for the booth are being retrieved from storage in New York. Volunteer to help in the Connecticut room, in the Grange store, or selling quilt raffle tickets. Thanks to all the crafters who made items to sell in the NEGB. Dawn Percoski has been busy getting the store set up and items priced as well as organizing cleaning days.

The 1 in 1000 year flood from the storm that hit Oxford, Southbury and surrounding towns with 12-16" of rain in four hours on August 18 deposited two and a half feet of water in the basement of Oxford Grange #194. It was down to 10" by the time the fire department pumped it out. Our new toilets are covered in silt, bathroom vanities ruined, front doors on the lower level warped beyond repair, and leaving much to be thrown out. New padded chairs were soaked and ruined. Much clean up needs to be done. We hope the

...Continued on page 2

Eye on Communications:

The two most powerful words

by Terri Fassio,
Co-Public Relations Director

In the Grange world, you can never say "thank you" enough. Not sending a token of appreciation sends the message that your Grange isn't organized, aren't grateful, and, worst of all, maybe didn't even need the support!

Thank you notes put your

Grange at the forefront of your members' and supporters' minds. But don't stress about the timing of your Thank You notes. You want to seek timeliness, but sometimes that is not always possible. Most are probably not worried about the timing of their "Thank Yous", and would forego getting one quickly

...Continued on page 9



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due September 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

refrigerator and furnace will dry our and still work. At least the damage was restricted to the basement.

On the topic of 1 in 1000, but more positive, have you ever considered joining the 1 in 1000 Club by making a \$1000.00 donation to the National Grange Foundation? This can be done in one payment or installments. The NGF is a worthy cause and helps to fund various Grange projects. The idea was to have 1000 numbered

members which would mean an infusion of \$1,000,000.00 to the NGF. Membership stands at 62, so there is a ways to go. Consider joining! It's a good way to support the Grange.

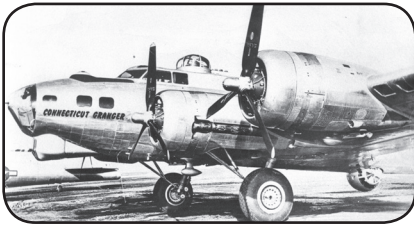
If re-elected at State Session, I will be going to the National Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa this year. I have been busy with the Citizenship and Taxation Committee under the leadership of Michigan State Grange President Chris Johnson. It has been quite interesting going through the Present Policy and recrafting the Policy Statement. We have yet to receive resolutions for consideration as state conventions are still underway or upcoming.

Please try to complete and submit the Grange Member Satisfaction Survey. This will help National Grange with knowing what you like and don't like in Grange so that positive changes for the good of the order can be had. Links have been distributed in the State Grange electronic newsletter put out by Terri Fassio.

Fair season is under way, so get out and visit a Grange or other agricultural fair. If you don't see me on visitations, it is because I have been catching upon farm work. I am currently clearing 200' of the north property line and area surrounding the riding arena from overgrowth stimulated by too much rain. I do hope to get out to see you all sooner or later. Esto Perpetua.

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

Ekonk Booth Sells Out



And that's a wrap. In 36 years of having our food booth at the Brooklyn Fair Ekonk Community Grange has NEVER sold out of all of our food. Great job everyone who worked in the booth, those who organized the fair and especially every single friend and customer. We were also pleased to welcome Congressman Joe Courtney pictured at far right with Lincoln Cooper and Jodi Ann Cameron. See you next year!



2024 Session Resolutions

1) RE: RISING COLLEGE COSTS CORRECTION

WHEREAS the average cost of tuition across the United States has been rising faster than inflation for the last three decades, and

WHEREAS the average cost of tuition for one year at a public school is \$9,139 according to The College Board, and

WHEREAS a tuition cap help control rising prices of education, and universities will be forced to stay under the tuition cap, as long as they want to continue to receive Federal funding, and

WHEREAS over the past 30 years, even accounting for inflation, the average cost of tuition and fees to attend college has more than doubled. Today the average undergraduate student who takes out loans graduates from college owing nearly \$25,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge Congress to repair the college tuition system by having the federal government step in and cap the amount that colleges can charge in tuition, and this resolution go to the National Grange for its support.

SOURCE: This is resolution #29 from 2023 referred to the State Grange Executive, Education and Legislative Committees for a report at the 2024 Session.

REFERRED: TBD

2) RE: CONTROLLING INTEREST RATES FOR COLLEGE LOANS

WHEREAS the root of our student loan crisis has not been addressed, and

WHEREAS the government has instituted Federally supported

student loan programs with interest rates that range between 6.5% to 9%, and

WHEREAS students graduating from college are often many thousands of dollars in debt and do not immediately have jobs and the means to repay their loans with the excessive interest charged, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National Grange urge Congress to order the Federal Department of Education to set Federal Student Loan interest rates under 3% and forgive all past high interest rates accrued through the government's faulted system.

SOURCE: State Grange Executive, Education and Legislative Committees

REFERRED: TBD

3) RE: STATE GRANGE FAMILY DUES

WHEREAS the National Grange By-Laws clearly define a membership level for family membership in Sec. 4.6.6 (B), and

WHEREAS Sec. 8.6.1 (B) of the National Digest defines the payment of dues for family members, and

WHEREAS there is no reference in the Connecticut State Grange By-Laws concerning dues payments for family members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Article XIII Subordinate Granges, Division 2 be replaced with the following: Subordinate and Community Granges shall report promptly to the Secretary of the State Grange at the beginning of each quarter, using blank forms furnished by the Secretary of the State Grange, and remit dues as follows: \$7.50 for each individual member that

has been a member for the full preceding quarter, of which \$4.00 shall be retained by the State Grange; \$15.00 for each family membership which qualified for the full quarter of which \$8.00 shall be retained by the State Grange, including all who have taken or been obligated in the First Degree. Additionally, \$2.50 for each person initiated or obligated during the quarter. In the event the dues to the National Grange are increased by vote of the delegate body, Subordinate dues to the State Grange shall increase the same amount automatically, to take effect upon the change by the National Grange.

SOURCE: Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee

REFERRED: TBD

4) RE: STUDENT LOAN BANKRUPTCY RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS students graduating from college often have a debt amounting to many thousands of dollars facing them, and

WHEREAS these students often cannot find jobs with a sufficient salary to repay these debts, and

WHEREAS students have been banned from the ability to bankrupt out of these debts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge Congress to rethink this hardship on our young people and allow them to bankrupt out of loans that they are unable to pay.

SOURCE: North Stonington Community Grange #138

REFERRED: TBD

5) RE: TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY RELATED TO QUARTERLY DUES TO CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange has historically collected quarterly dues from each Subordinate Grange, and

WHEREAS the required amount had been \$6.25 per member per quarter, and has been raised to \$7.50, meaning an annual amount of \$30.00, and

WHEREAS \$30.00 may represent a significant portion of the overall annual dues, leaving very little as income for the Grange's financial needs, and

WHEREAS when new and experienced members were made aware of these requirements, they have expressed a desire to understand the purpose and procedures used to determine the need for the rate increase, and

WHEREAS members would like to have a method for assuring the Connecticut State Grange's accountability and transparency for the use of these funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange Board of Directors communicate through the *Connecticut Granger*, definitions and justification for the quarterly dues, including how rates are determined and by whom, and how are these funds distributed and used.

SOURCE: Greenfield Hill Grange #133

REFERRED: TBD

6) RE: CHANGES TO RECOGNITION OF 80 YEAR GRANGE MEMBERS

WHEREAS eighty years of continuous membership and service is a momentous occasion and deserving of an appropriately significant award of recognition, and

WHEREAS currently, fifty year Golden Sheaf and 75 year award certificates are well designed and

suitied to recognize these important milestone occasions, and

WHEREAS current practice is for National Grange to issue a rather non-descript form letter to recognize 80 year members which is not commensurate with the rare occasion with which members achieve this level of membership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National Grange design an award (plaque or certificate) that does justice to the gravity and impressiveness of

the occasion on which one of our Patrons of Husbandry reaches this occasion of 80 years of continuous Grange membership and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution be forwarded to the next National Grange convention to be held in Bettendorf, Iowa for consideration and action thereon.

SOURCE: Bethlehem Grange #121; Mt. Laurel Pomona #15

REFERRED: TBD

Session Committee Assignments

Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

Chairperson: George Russell

Vice Chair: Robin Hettrick

Bethlehem #121
Cannon #152
Glastonbury #26

Riverton #169
Hemlock #184
Taghannuck #100

Oxford #194
Wallingford #33

Good of Order/Membership/Master's Address

Chairperson: Jaimie Cameron

Vice Chair: Susan Masino

Beacon Valley #103
Ekonk Community #89
Granby #5

Harmony #92
N. Stonington Comm.#138
Norfield #146

Simsbury #197
Wolcott #173
Senexet #40

Legislative/Insurance

Chairperson: Noel Miller

Vice Chair: Debbie Vail

Coventry #75
Winchester #74
Greenfield Hill #133

Lyme #147
Killingly #112
Vernon #52

Stafford #1
Hillstown #87
Hillstown Jr. #87

Agriculture, Conservation & Environment

Chairperson: Donald Lanoue

Vice Chair: Ruel Miller

Bridgewater #153
Cheshire #23
Groton Community #213

Higganum #124
Whigville #48
Redding #15

Preston City #110
Stonington #168
Ekonk Jr. #101

Registered delegates will be contacted around October 1 with dates and times for Session Committee meetings to be held on Zoom prior to State Session. Delegates will also receive digital packets of resolutions and other information needed to consider resolutions. To make this possible, we ask all Granges to return their registrations and delegate cards to the State Grange Office as soon as possible. This will help greatly in the planning for these meetings and the ultimate planning State Session. Questions can be directed to the State Secretary, Todd Gelineau- 860-307-1522 or Secretary@CTStateGrange.org.



Convention Registration

Thursday, October 17 - Saturday, October 19

HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE: SEPT. 16

SESSION REGISTRATIONS DUE: SEPT. 30

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

Grange Name _____ No. _____

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

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

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

NON-DELEGATES

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

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

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


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

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

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

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

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

-  1) 12 oz. Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus
- 2) Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce
- 3) Grilled Salmon with Bourbon Glaze
- 4) Eggplant Parmesan

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

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

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

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

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

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

Tentative Convention Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

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

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Session
Intro. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of Officers of the Connecticut State Grange
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee
Report of Agriculture Committee
Report of General Deputy
Reports of Pomona Deputies
- 10:45 A.M. BREAK
- 11:30 A.M. Report of *Connecticut Granger*
Business Session (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (Nutmeg Ballroom), Hosts: TBD
 - Blessing by State Chaplain
 - Family Activities Awards & Report
 - Membership Awards
 - Public Relations Awards
 - Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representative
- 2:45 P.M. Business Session
- 3:15 P.M. BREAK
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)
 - Professional Agriculture Awards
 - Scholarship Awards
 - Lecturer's Program

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)

- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions
Intro. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree
- 9:45 A.M. Break for Preparation of Sixth Degree
- 10:00 A.M. **Conferral of the Sixth Degree, Ballroom (NEW LAST YEAR)** Open to all Sixth Degree members, registration not required to attend.
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree
Escorting National Representatives
Recognition of Honored Guests and Past Voting Delegates to National Grange
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form
Recognition of Golden Sheaf Members
- 11:15 A.M. BREAK (or 15 min. break at the conclusion of the degree, if earlier).
Committee Reports (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recognition Luncheon, Hosts: TBD
 - Blessing by State Chaplain
 - Introduction of guests from the CT FFA
 - Presentation by FFA
 - Junior Recognition
 - Youth Recognition
- 1:30 P.M. Budget Approval (tentative)
- 2:00 P.M. Business Session
Community Service Report
Honor Grange Awards
- 3:00 P.M. Closing in Form in the Fourth Degree
- 3:30 P.M. Installation of Officers

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

This Schedule is Tentative and subject to change.

How to book your room at the



- 1) Call the Holiday Inn Norwich at 860-889-5201. You may be forwarded to the corporate reservation line.
- 2) Tell them you are reserving a room in the CT State Grange room block in October.
- 3) Rates for our room block are as follows:
Thurs., 10/17 \$109 +tax/fees
Fri., 10/18 & Sat., 10/19. \$129 +tax/fees
- 4) **Make your reservation before Sept. 16, 2024.** If there are rooms left after that date they will be at the standard "rack" rate, not our special group rate. Due to concerts and events at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun Casinos, rooms may be in short demand, PLEASE RESERVE your room(s) as soon as possible, well in advance of the deadline.

Legislatively Speaking



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

As I write this article, it is the 55th anniversary of the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival. As a ten year old, I remember this event and my 14 year old brother tried to go, but was stopped because it was a cool thing to experience. As the concert-goers invaded this town, many without food, shelter, water or money, the community came together to aid these young people and at the concert many strangers helped others survive this great event. People helping people, hmm sounds like Grangers.

In the last article, the Republican National Convention (RNC) had just ended and Trump and Vance are the candidates for the 2024 election for the Republican party. The following week President Joe Biden withdrew as candidate for the Democratic party for the good of the country, and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as candidate for the Presidency. Two weeks later she chose Tim Walz, Governor of Minnesota as her choice for Vice President. He has 24 years of service in the National Guard, a school teacher, assistant coach for his school's football team, turning them from a losing team into a State Champion. As Governor, Walz provided funding for school lunches, tax credits and helped build the economy for Minnesota.

The Trump rallies are the same as the 2020 rallies with a lot of anger, and unhappy fans. The Harris rallies have brought out loud, joyous attendees. Even in 106° heat, crowds wait hours to get in to cheer and witness a happy campaign. August 19th was the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago.

The UAW strikes have been settled and workers are back to work. John Deere has laid off 3,000 assemblers and engineers, and

plan to move Part Production to Mexico due to unskilled Americans and cheaper Mexican labor. Wow! What a way to treat your workers who proudly work to build the best farm machinery in the world. Many farmers are struggling to get parts.

Stellantis North America, owner of Jeep and Ram Trucks have laid off and closed plants, moving operations to Mexico. The Ram 1500 bare bones pick-up truck will stop production, Hemi Engine plant will close and a new engine, the hurricane will be made in Mexico. Word is the engine is a lemon. Ford Motor Company is laying off and closing a plant. Sorry, but in 2008 during the financial crisis, the United States government bailed out many of these manufacturers to save jobs and keep these products made in the USA. Fair wages and benefits are the basic fundamentals of good business. Happy workers have always built the best products.

Inflation is down to 3% and unemployment is at an all time low. If the Federal Reserve took my advice from July, we may have been in a better state today, just saying.

The 2024 Olympic Games are over the the United States won the most medals. It was great to see all of our athletes doing well, but I was shocked that one of our female athletes was glad that she was able to utilize the free healthcare services from the Olympic Games host, a pap smear exam, dental exam and eye exam! What? Don't our Olympic teams cover this healthcare? The next summer games will be in Los Angeles in 2028 (winter will be in Cortina, Italy, 2026). Hope the fires and earthquakes don't ruin them.

This August, many customers opened their electric bills to a very, vcery large increase. During the pandemic, the Governor authorized a plan to help fund people who couldn't pay their electric bills by having an added surcharge fund the program. With lower energy costs for natural gas the revenue wasn't there, so the surcharge was passed on to the customers. This is a great stress on seniors, small businesses

and farmers whose use increases during the summer. Legislators are requesting a special session to correct the wrong and get refunds for the customers. This week the utility board approved an increase to customers. I thought this was part of the Build Back Better program? Why should we hapy for this, isn't the solar panels, wind turbines, farm digesters invested in to reduce energy dependence?

We are 85 days away (as of this writing) from the 2024 elections, as I have asked, please check your voting status, so you will be able to vote. Tim Walz, at his first campaign rally surmized that we whould all watch out for our neighbors, and follow the golden rule in Minnesota, "Mind your own damn business." In this time we are in, maybe this should be our battle cry.

Ready...set...AUTUMN!



Redding Grange is pleased to announce its starting lineup for the Fall Season. Please save the dates for:

Fall Welcome Potluck Luncheon
Sun., Sept 22nd at 1pm

Fall Open Mic Night
Thurs., Oct 10th

And drumroll please... our world-famous (ha)...

3rd Annual Mini-Ag Fair!!!
Sun., October 20th

Keep an eye out for upcoming updates and details!!



SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Sept. 25: Harvesting

We had a busy summer. Regular meetings with lots to discuss and do. We had our annual Grange Fair with lots of great entries. Plenty of veggies, flowers and crafts. This is always a good way to show the community what we do and how they can join us. We also had our annual awards night for the recipients of the Duffy scholarships. This year we gave 3 to Woodstock Academy graduating seniors. We wish great success in their future schooling. Timothy Billings, Claire Beck and Ryan Cabrera. They spoke of their future interests.

We continue to rent our hall for Yoga, line dancing and other events. We look forward to seeing our members and friends.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Sept. 13: From Sea to Shining Sea: Conquest of California (Installation)

Sept. 27: Secession! Civil War Pt. 1

The summer is passing quietly. We had a successful Fair in July despite the rain on Saturday. The New London County 4H Fair was held on our grounds August 9-11, and the North Stonington Baptist Church will hold their Family Festival here on September 14. This activity is free to all and includes delicious food and delightful entertainment.

Our 2024-2025 programs continue our travels through the history of our many wars and will bring us up to

the present by next September. Our officers will be installed on September 13. And if that mama deer with her two little fawns who frequent our yard can just avoid those noisy coyotes that call at night, next time we will tell you all about awesome August.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Sept. 6: Resolution Writing and Reviewing. (Bring pencil and paper) and Installation of Officers

Oct. 3: Vernon Grange presents Program at Coventry

Oct. 4: A New Grange Year

Nov. 1: Food Insecurity, Grocery Bingo Bring items for prizes

I recently read a wonderful article on what it is to be a Granger. To sum up in a few words it means to be active, stay the course, and commitment. To be active means to participate in all activities as much as you are able. Go to regular meetings, participate when you are there, help whenever you can. Don't like the weather? Don't think the program will be interesting? Don't like someone in your group? It's the night for your favorite TV program? Whatever the reason for staying home, its not a reason, its an excuse. Do you call the President and say you're not coming or let the meeting go on waiting for you to show. I guess you would say I'm preachy and I won't disagree. When a Grange plans a picnic and counts on many coming and only the few faithful show up, it's disappointing. When not enough show up to make a quorum, that's embarrassing. If you no longer drive at night, call someone and get a ride. If the meeting will be on zoom, join in. Don't be a Granger in name only. If this article gets published you can lash back. We did have fun making s'mores and putting hot dogs in the roll. Nancy and Dawn were the best.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Irene Percoski

Hillstown Grange will hold its 136th Agricultural Fair on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 to 2 at the hall located at 617 Hills Street in East Hartford.

Craft people, artists, gardeners,

and cooks of all ages are encouraged to enter their best items to be judged for our Fair. Judged items may be awarded ribbons and cash prizes. All entries must be brought to the Grange Hall on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 5 to 7 PM and picked up between 1 and 2 on Sat., Sept. 14.

Lunch is available with our famous grilled hot dogs and hamburgers topped with peppers and onions and will be available from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., weather permitting we will have indoor and outdoor seating for lunch. Raffle numbers will be pulled at 2 PM. A farmer's market and craft zone will be held outside weather permitting. Free vendor spaces are also available.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

There was no need to put up a neon sign advertising Leon's famous chowder and clam cakes, it was a full house and we sold out. The popular question was when are you going to have this again? We plan another one on November 16 and just maybe that is not soon enough.

This coming weekend August 16 and 17th we are having our annual Grange Fair. This will give everyone in our community an opportunity to show off their very best from vegetables to knitting, Christmas ornaments, photo cards, arts and crafts and many other exhibits.

All you free range chickens better think before you cross the road. On September 7 we will be ending the summer with our very first chicken BBQ with all the fixings. Eat in or take it to go.

On September 21 we will be having a lasagna dinner that will be just as good as your mama's.

October 19 We will pretend it is Thanksgiving and we will have a turkey dinner with all the fixings. Put on those toe tapping shoes and come and enjoy Nick Anderson and his band for Blue Grass every 4th Saturday of the month starting in October. We will be serving a various of delicious foods including chili hotdogs and homemade corn chowder, sandwiches and more.

For most of our events we will be selling delicious homemade seasonal pies made by our members.

Stop by we will be so glad to see you!!

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.

Lecturer's Department Awards



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

It is time to submit your Subordinate or Pomona Grange for either the Lecturer's Appreciation Award or the Honor Lecturer's Award. These awards recognize outstanding contributions to our Grange community at the community/subordinate and Pomona levels of our State Grange, honoring those who have shown exceptional dedication and leadership and are presented recognitions at our upcoming Connecticut State Grange Convention at the Norwich Holiday Inn on Friday, October 18th, at the 7:00 PM Celebration Banquet. Here are the details for you to submit a nomination:

Lecturer's Appreciation Award: This award is given to a member who has demonstrated significant support and appreciation for the Grange's educational programs and initiatives.

CRITERIA for Community and Pomona Granges:

- Be responsible for a suitable program at every meeting.
- Programs should be as appropriate, up to 30 minutes in length. Cooperate with your Grange Committees.
- Reports to the State Grange Lecturer/Program Director should be submitted on time.
- Submit a request to the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer by September 30th that your Grange has qualified for this award.

Honor Lecturer's Award: This prestigious award recognizes a Lecturer who has made a remarkable impact through their leadership, programming, and commitment to the Grange's values.

CRITERIA for Community and Pomona Granges:

- Meet the requirements for the Lecturer's Appreciation Award listed above.
- Participate in at least 3 additional contests or projects (Heirloom, Photo, Complete, "Honoring Our Elders," "A Word from Home," or "Initiate a New Program.")
- Submit a Grange in Action or a Golden Grange in Action nomination to National Grange and copy the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer.

Submit a request to the Connecticut State Grange Lecturer by September 30th that your Grange Lecturer has qualified for this award.

To submit a nomination, please send me a request (either email or letter is acceptable) detailing which of the two awards you qualify for and the criteria you completed to qualify. Nominations must be submitted by September 30th to either lecturer@ctstategrange.org or P.O. Box 155, Riverton, CT 06065. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Eye on Communications:

The two most powerful words

Continued from page one...

versus waiting a bit to receive a more genuine, heartfelt, (even funny), and personalized thank you. Your thank you should not sound like it's coming from a faceless corporation. Focus instead on the important work your Grange is doing in the community and tell a quick story for engagement. Personalization is the key to your members and supporters hearts.

And remember not to ask for anything in your Thank You note. Its only role is to say thank you and make them feel good. It's tempting to try to promote an event or ask for volunteers seeing as you might actually have their attention. But, don't do it.

Asking for something in your thank you letter negates the good will of the appreciation and will leave the person feeling unappreciated.

Other Creative Ways To Say Thank You

- Pass around cards at your next meeting and have your members write individual thank you messages to your volunteers and supporters. This helps ensure that you reach everyone who supports your Grange.
- Get creative with your table centerpieces at refreshments. For example, place beautiful flowers at each table, complete with a handwritten thank you note or sign.
- Create a honor wall at your Grange. Try to design it keeping in theme with your Grange's mission and projects. Recognition displays can be beautiful, Grange-branded experiences that transform your space and delight visitors. For example: Paws painted on the wall if your Grange donates to animal related projects, hand prints if your Grange undertakes projects that involve children, a bookshelf with books in it with names written on the spines if your Grange undertakes literacy or educational projects. Develop concepts that can tell the Grange story and honor members, volunteers and supporters at the same time. The ideas are endless!
- Honor your members and volunteers by hosting a special lunch or dinner as a thank you. Celebrate everything you've been able to accomplish together.

• You can always search resources like Pinterest for Creative Thank You ideas.

Remember that people like to feel that their thank you message is coming from people, and is not some stale message. Make sure you mention your Grange as much as you can; after all, your Grange's mission is the central piece to garnering support.

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.

Last Month



This Month



We heard from Janette Benson, daughter of Andrew Kachele from Trumbull Grange. She is now a member of Harmony Grange. The August issue photo is a picture of her father. He was a 50-year member, a Grange Deputy, and at one time had an installing team. She said he also installed in New York State too.

Granby Ice Cream Social



Over 40 folks attended our free community ice cream social today at the historic Granby Grange No. 5 hall. Nice to see some new, and some familiar faces. Thanks everyone for your support! Pat Tarca, of Granby, is pictured.

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" will be a monthly word or phrase designed to get everyone speaking the same language to build a positive message as we Grange.

"VALUE ADDED"

Value Added is the additional worth or enhancement that a product, service, process, or activity contributes beyond its basic components or features. Value added represents the improvement or benefit provided that increases the overall value for the end user, in our case, our members. Value added includes factors that contribute to the perceived worth of a product or service, such as branding, reputation, and customer experience.

Riverton Grange Fair



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 8: (Sunday) Christmas Meeting at Winchester Grange with catered lunch served at 12:30 P.M.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Dave Roberts

Sept. 8: Regular meeting at 2:00 PM
Sept. 14: Granby Open Fair Day/ annual Granby Grange Fair

Granby Grange met on Sunday, June 14th, at 2:00 PM with President Phillip Marshall presiding. President Marshall thanked all those in attendance and noted how nice the outside of our Grange hall looks with the new landscaping and mulch.

Granby Grange was pleased to host the 2024 Connecticut State Grange Family Festival on Sunday, August 4, at the historic Grange Hall. A pancake breakfast fundraiser was hosted by our Grange. The Connecticut State Grange Lecturer's Department hosted the annual photography contest and the Connecticut State Grange Family Activities Department hosted the annual crafts competition and tea cup auction. A good time was had by all and many attendees complimented the Grange members on the new handicap ramp, porch, and new unisex accessible bathroom.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Sept. 10: Back to School, Ref. Ellen Pettit

Sept. 24: Installation of Officers, Ref. Pam Wright

Oct. 8: Cookie Month, Ref. All members bring cookies to share with



George Russell works on the judging of fruits and vegetables at the 2024 Riverton Grange Fair in August.

the recipe.

Winchester Grange held its Grange Fair & Community Tag Sale in August with a great turnout of visitors and exhibitors. Thank you to everyone who made the day possible. At our second meeting in August, we held our annual Picnic & Awards Night program. Congratulations to members receiving membership awards.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Sept. 12: Guess What? By Barbara Prindle Ref: Barbara Prindle

Sept. 14: Booth at Cornwall Agricultural Fair 10am-4pm

Oct. 10: Halloween Costume Party by Debbie Hanlon Ref: Debbie Hanlon

Oct. 24: Awards/Harvest Dinner Potluck by ALL bring a covered dish

Nov. 2: Grange Dance 7pm-9pm by Dance committee Ref: ALL

Nov. 14: Baseball by Dennis Jasmine Ref: Dennis Jasmine

Note: Refreshments and Social time at 7pm with Meeting at 7:30pm

At our August meeting after we received Todd's request for our

Program Schedule for the Pomona booklet, we changed the Lecturer's program from "Travels" to "Program Book". It turned into a fun program led by Debbie Hanlon. In our Grange instead of the Lecturer doing all the programs each person picks a month and title for their program and a month for their being on refreshments. This brought our true Grange volunteerism. It was wonderful to see the cooperation and ideas along with lots of laughter as we filled in the program/refreshment template for the 2024-2025 year.

We had a small but lively crowd at our August Square/Contra dance and welcomed some new people into our Grange Hall. We look forward to our Thank You Lunch for Granges and Grangers who donated when the tree fell on our roof. On the same day, August 17th, after the Lunch we are lending the use of our Hall for a contra dance at 6pm. Also, we are getting ready for our booth at the Cornwall Agricultural Fair on Saturday, September 14th. It is held on the Cornwall town green (Pine Street) from 10-4pm. It is a

wonderful day to come down and visit us there. We are now soliciting donations from shops to make up baskets for our free raffle. This brings people into our tent where we talk about what our Grange is doing this year. I hope to see you there.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 15 at 2pm.

As you read this, we will have hosted the Mountain Laurel Pomona on Saturday, August 24th at the meeting location of Bethlehem Grange, at Memorial Hall in Bethlehem.

Hank, the Burro, was in attendance at our August meeting. We conducted our business, followed by a "Picnic Menu". A hilarious "Pig Race" game was conducted by Barbara R. All we had to do was toss the dice for each little pig to move forward.

As the 2024 summer season passes on, let's look forward to our Grange's upcoming activities. Cheryl and Ray Johnstone will be our delegates to the Annual Connecticut State Grange Session in October.

Northeast Grange Sunday



State Chaplain Charles Dimmick (center) with Hank after giving the sermon at the Northeast Grange Sunday Service in Vermont.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

A huge thank you to everyone who entered and participated in our Riverton Grange Fair! We had some amazing entries this year, and we are grateful to all who contributed.

A special shout out to Beth Weller for preparing the kitchen and cooking meals for everyone today. You were incredible! Also, a big thank you to Phil Prelli for assisting in the kitchen. It was so great seeing him and Maureen!

We also want to thank the American legion, Jeanie Reinier and Ginny Apple for their wonderful exhibits.

Lastly, we couldn't have done it without our wonderful fair committee. From cleaning, setting up and judging your hard work and dedication made this event a success. We truly appreciate everything you do for the Grange!

REGISTER TODAY

MEET US AT THE RIVER!

November 11-16, 2024
 Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf
 Visit <http://grange.biz/ng158>

MEET US AT THE RIVER
 BETTENDORF, IOWA



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Nutmeg Pomona will be held at Beacon Valley Grange in Naugatuck on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 2:00. Beacon Valley is in charge of the refreshments.

Lecturer Robert Charbonneau's program is entitled "Fall" meaning the "Fall" season not "fall" down.

Family activities chairlady appreciates all donations for the country store.

The 2024-2025 handbooks will be distributed. Granges should make arrangements to pick theirs up.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Sept. 4: Installation of Officers

Sept. 18: End of Summer

We were represented at the August 10th unveiling of the Ball and Socket Arts Collage picturing many locations of Cheshire that Cheshire Grange participated in putting together. As I write this, our Cheshire Grange Community Fair is getting close, August 24th and 25th. A lot of "hands on deck" will be needed. The fair is our biggest public event of the year. We are already getting reservations for the fair roast beef dinner on Sunday. The fair is also a symbol of our summer nearing the end. Our programs are in place for the new Grange year.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

Wallingford Grange's annual Grange Fair is coming up on



Rob and I trekked all the way to New Canaan to drop off his hedge trimmer at the repair shop, then went on up to Granby to see the judging and check out the upcoming Family Festival setup with the CWA/FA committee. Thanks to Granby Grange # 5 for hosting. Their hall looks great after all the work done. I even made some new buddies. I helped Noel and Marcia with judging those creative birdhouses. The teacups were neat too.

Saturday, September 14, between 12pm-5pm! We will be having many activities including a "Backyard Shenanigans" kid's zone, Chicken coop bingo (at 2pm and 4pm during the fair), an awareness booth about abused donkeys, a touch the tractor event, furbearer display/match the animal, pet a donkey, a match the veggie activity, and some live music. We will also have several demos focused on sewing, crocheting, and operating a ham radio. There will also be several craft vendors and non-profits present. In addition, we will be selling hot sandwiches at the event like we did last year. We hope to see you there!

We had a great time on August 6 at our community Tie Dye shirt making event. Everyone had fun twisting, pleating, scrunching, and squishing to make the tie dye shirts. A big shoutout goes out to Lisa-Anne Mowerson and Marybeth Francy who showed several ways to tie to get certain designs!

Finally, at our lecture for the August grange meeting led by Lisa-Anne Mowerson, we learned several new zucchini facts and recipes. We also tried out a death by chocolate zucchini bread and even had some

zucchini cart races! While zucchini may not be everyone's favorite vegetable, it certainly is one that can have many creative uses!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Looking forward to writing this article for the *Granger*, I was going to tell you what a nice picnic we had. Juicy hamburgers and hot dogs were to compliment the potluck supper. Unfortunately, the weatherman had a different plan. It poured all day with high winds and storm warnings. We planned to try again on the following Friday.

We have some new items for our next tag sale which we have the third Saturday of each month. Lots of fall supplies. Canning jars, baskets, an apple picker and a good supply of large cooking pots including a lobster pot. Next sale, September 21st from 9 to 3. Open mic the same day from 2 to 5. Come and be entertained or if you would like to display your talent that's even better. Variety being the spice of life we welcome all kinds of entertainment.

Our next meeting is September 13th. Marilyn Maxwell will be in the

charge of the program "Dragon Fruit" and will also serve the refreshments.

We will host the meeting of Nutmeg Pomona on Sunday, September 22nd.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Sept. 13: Omitted

Sept. 27: Installation of Officers

Oct. 11: Trick or Treat

Oct. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52

CWA@ctstateGrange.org

Class A - Afghans (4 entries)

- 1- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52
- 2- Ellen Pettit, Winchester #74
- 3- Pam Wright, Winchester #74

Class B - Doilies (2 entries)

- 1- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23
- 2- Maryalyce Lee, Cheshire #23

Class D - 3 Piece Baby Set (3 entries)

- 1- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
- 2- Maryalyce Lee, Cheshire #23

Class E - Plastic Canvas (5 entries)

- 1- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
- 2- Sue Addison, Winchester #74
- 3- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52

Class F - Counted Cross Stitch

- (1 entry)
- 1- Mariellen Baxter, Vernon #52

Class I - Quilted Wall Hanging

- (3 entries)
- 1- Alma Graham, Coventry #75
- 2- Karen Macdonald, Greenfield Hill #133
- 3- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23

Class J - Stuffed Toy (5 entries)

- 1- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23
- 2- Chloe Donihee, Coventry #75
- 3- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52

Class K - Baby Afghan (5 entries)

- 1- Ellen Pettit, Winchester #74
- 2- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
- 3- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23
- HM- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52

Class M - Tea Cup Craft Contest

- (11 entries)
- 1- Carol Innes, Granby #5
- 2- Kathy Bergonzi, Wallingford #33
- 3- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23

Baking Contest (5 Entries)

Family Activities Updates

- 1- Pam Wright, Winchester #74
- 2- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23
- 3- Carol Innes, Granby #5

Snowman Theme, Needlework Contest (5 entries)

- 1- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23
- 2- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52
- 3- Chloe Donihee, Coventry #75

Snowman Theme, Other Medium Contest (8 entries)

- 1- Pam Wright, Winchester #74
- 2- Judy Doyle, Riverton #169
- 3- Deb Heim, Harmony #92

Birdhouse Contest (23 entries)

- 1- Kristin Donihee, Coventry #75
- 2- Cindy Hupper, Cheshire #23
- 3- Diane Calabro, Cheshire #23
- HM- Robert Blackwell & Ted Powell

Winners from the 2023-2024

Youth Needlework and Craft Contests are as follows:

Youth Birdhouse Contest (4 entries)

- 1- Aaron & Brianna Andres, Harmony #92
- 2- Richard Donihee, Coventry #75
- 3- Maureen Donihee, Coventry #75

Youth Snowman Theme, Needlework Contest (2 entries)

- 1- Maureen Donihee, Coventry #75
- 2- Richard Donihee, Coventry #75

Class J - Youth Stuffed Toy (2 entries)

- 1- Maureen Donihee, Coventry #75
- 2- Richard Donihee, Coventry #75

Class M - Youth Tea Cup Craft Contest (2 entries)

- 1- Richard Donihee, Coventry #75
- 2- Maureen Donihee, Coventry #75



Thank you!

The Connecticut State Grange sponsors the Forestry Contest at the annual Connecticut FFA Convention. We have received the following notes from students who participated in the contest this year:

Dear Connecticut State Grange,

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity to display the skills I have learned throughout my time in the FFA. I am grateful for the real life skills I was able to learn and the award I was granted.

Thank you again,
Olivia Lipps

Dear Connecticut State Grange,

Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I enjoyed my experience. I give my deepest gratitude for the award.

Thank you,
Caleb Tefft

Wallingford Pollinators



What's going on here?! Girl Scout Danielle Britton is installing her Gold Award project of a pollinator garden at Wallingford Grange! Come to the Fair on Sept 14 and ask her all about it

Line Dancing

at Senexet Grange
628 Route 169, Woodstock CT 06281

BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE - Join us for this fun, energetic class at Senexet Grange. This class is designed for folks that are brand new to line dancing, as well as those that have a little bit of experience. Beginners will learn basic steps, while intermediate dancers will get slightly more advanced instruction.

Sundays, 1-2:30pm

PACKAGE OPTIONS:

6 Classes: \$60	4 Class Flex-Pass: \$40	3 Class Flex-Pass: \$30
-----------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

Or look under "ENRICHMENT":
<https://secure.recl.com/CT/woodstock-ct/catalog>

WOODSTOCK RECREATION
Questions?
erinlucas@woodstockct.gov
(860) 928-6595 x333

TAG SALE

Attic Treasures to Garage Goodies

September 28, 2024

Saturday

**To sell:
or for info:
Call Cathy
203-259-4658
\$ 30 per table**

Members & Friends Tag Sale
Come *SELL* or *SHOP*

The Greenfield Hill Grange # 133 will be hosting a **HUGE** Tag Sale
It will be in- house members and friends.

All are invited.
Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield

GRANGE FAIR

Sunday Sept 8th
12 pm to 5pm
12 GOOD HILL ROAD, WESTON CT

FREE ENTRY

LIVE MUSIC BY: GOOD GODFREY

- Posh Portable Play & Bounce House
- College Creamery
- Brooke's Bunny Farm
- CT Valley Brewing Co
- Kids Games
- Slime Dunk Tank
- Eating Contests
- Local Vendors
- Snack Bar
- Raffle Baskets
- Agricultural Contests

Proceeds go to the Norfield Grange Scholarship Fund. For more information visit facebook.com/norfieldgrange146 or email NorfieldGrange@gmail.com

Inner Conflict



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Romans 7:21-23

Most of us are familiar with the concept of shoulder angels. It is a common fictional device, with a good angel, representing our conscience, on one shoulder, and a bad angel, or devil, sitting on the other shoulder, representing temptation. The concept is first found in a passage in an early Christian apocryphal writing, The Shepherd of Hermas, dating from about 150 A.D., in which it is written: "There are two angels with a man—one of righteousness, and the other of iniquity." But it also is a symbolic form of the human dilemma we read in Paul's Letter to the Romans, which begins this column.

There are several thousand years of literature exploring the general concept of striving to do



good and failing to do so, both within a religious context and in psychological terms. While almost all writers recognize the conflict exists, there are very few positive solutions that have been presented. It is generally recognized that most people develop a sense of what is right and what is wrong, but argument is made by some that there is a God-Given absolute standard of right and wrong, while others state that humans determine these standards based on observation and experience.

To me, the very fact that we struggle to do right is strong evidence that there is an external force, which comes from God, let us call it the Holy Spirit, calling us to a moral existence. That calling gives us a conscience. That opposing drive within us we could call "original sin", which inhibits us from always

doing right. The more we strive to do right, to obey our conscience, the stronger our conscience becomes. The more we ignore doing right, the weaker our conscience becomes.

But let us turn to God in prayer to help us overcome that tendency to do evil. And the more we try to overcome the evil within us the closer we will come to be able to do good.

In Memoriam

Robert Longley, G.S.
Granby Grange #5

Shirley Stulpin
Granby Grange #5

Donald Comstock
Cheshire Grange #23

Philip Mitchell, G.S.
Hillstown Grange #87

Ruth Rosebrooks, G.S.
Ekonk Comm. Grange #89

Arline Boucher
Ekonk Community Grange #89

Jean Vollaro, G.S.
Harmony Grange #92

Daniel Levangie, G.S.
Preston City Grange #110

Lucius Stark
Lyme Grange #147

List compiled from
Quarterly Reports

"Well done, good and faithful servants."