



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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From the President's Desk



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We all belong to a Fraternity with bonds between members and we took obligations to uphold certain ideals of behavior concerning those fraternal relationships. It doesn't always mean we are the closest of friends with everyone in the fraternity and may not agree at all times with various fraternal brothers and sisters. In these ties, we should ideally remember the meaning of our fraternity and our obligations to care for each other and respect the differences of opinion and hopefully compromise on issues.

At National Grange Leaders Conference this year, there was a wonderful presentation by two brothers of the fraternity, Vic Stevens and Scott Lyle, about "Being Un-offendable." That is to say, one should not take offense at the actions and words of others. This philosophy can lead to better inter-personal relations. When we react negatively to perceived offenses, we lose control and create divisions. Now, let us return to the issue at hand.

There is a Grange where evidently one member thought another member was not doing a job

properly. The point of disagreement related to renovations being done on the hall and whether they had been done properly in preparation for an upcoming event. The work was being done by a contractor who is licensed and knows the codes and such. The contractor was approved by said Grange to do the work. Instead of letting the contractor finish the repair, the member in disagreement

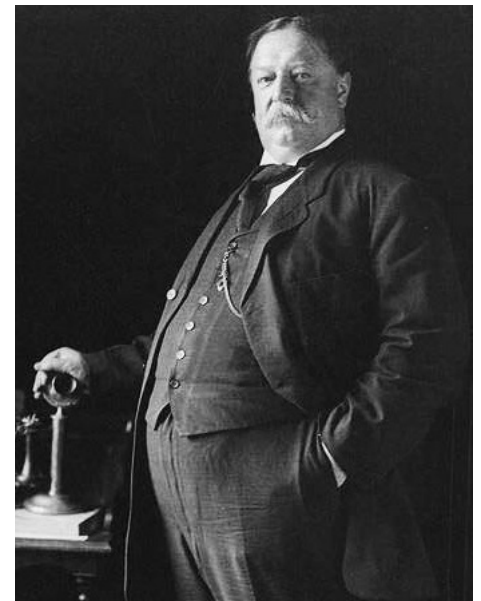
Grange opposed President Taft

by Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

On January 26, 1911, President William H. Taft sent his Canada-U.S. Reciprocity (Free Trade) Agreement to Congress for approval. In remarks to Congress, the President said, "Since becoming a nation, Canada has been our good neighbor, immediately contiguous across a wide continent without artificial or natural barrier except navigable waters used in common. She has cost us nothing in the way of preparations for defense against her possible assault, and she never will. She has sought to agree with us quickly when differences have disturbed our relations. She shares with us common traditions and aspirations. I feel I have correctly interpreted the wish of the American people by expressing in the arrangement now submitted to Congress for its approval, their desire for a more intimate and

notified the town building inspector of a perceived violation in the Grange work. Furthermore, a relative of said member went to the hall to interrupt the work in some fashion. In my view, this type of situation should have been handled internally. If all things were done by proper Grange procedure, the process, including choice of contractor, would be approved by majority Grange vote.

Disagreements on matters
...Continued on page 2



William Howard Taft, 27th President of the United States, 1909-1913.

cordial relationship with Canada. I therefore earnestly hope that the measure will be promptly enacted into law."

Not all Americans (or Canadians)
...Continued on page 3



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



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Articles Due June 15

From the President's Desk

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once voted by the Grange should be handled civilly between the interested parties or the State President can be called in to mediate. Once a vote is taken on an issue, all members should respect the will of the majority. In this case, the contractor was a Grange member as well and while I'm sure the person was chosen in good faith and has worked diligently with the Grange, perhaps a non-member contractor might have been a more neutral

choice, but that was the choice of this Grange and should have been respected by all. Furthermore, in this case, the contractor has gone out of his way for the Grange to make sure things were done as required for completion of the project. Disagreements may and will happen but I as State President can never condone a member getting in the way of a project that resulted from a majority vote of the Grange. There are ways to disagree but this is not one I want to see emulated.

When you join our Order, you take certain obligations which don't require you to pledge to be best friends with all, but a certain level of respect, toleration, and camaraderie are expected. Folks, the reality of our current situation has

been exacerbated by membership decline. As our membership numbers plummet, we become more concentrated, bringing strong personalities into closer proximity and the chances for conflicts among dissimilar personalities rises. Even with more people, there would still be disagreements, but that is why we elect our officers and take votes on various issues of business, so that the majority will lead the way.

In the Grange Installation ritual, there is a directive that the President shall take decisions against him/her cheerfully as should we all. If this Order is to succeed and Persevere in the times to come, we must get along and work together for the common good of all. If that doesn't work, fall back to the old lesson I'm sure you've heard before: If you don't have something nice to say, then don't say anything at all.

Big E Work Day Announced



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

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On June 29th at 1:00 pm after all the meetings, we will be starting our annual cleanup day and getting out all of our inventory to separate on the stage. We hope you will come up for the afternoon and help us. It's fun and you can see others that you have not seen over the winter months and bring a friend. We can also set up a second date for the next step as well. I hope to see you there!

Don't forget that there is still time to start up a new community service project. Perhaps there is an animal rescue center. Give them a call or look up their website. They usually post what is needed. Start

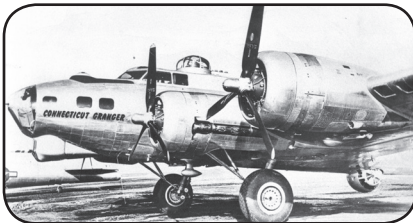


up a collection at your meetings. This counts for both Family Activities and community service. Be sure to send out letters to all grange members so that everyone can participate. Include all your upcoming projects so that you may generate some interest and get more members back to being involved.

Try out our baking contest recipe for this year. You can use it for refreshments at one of your meetings. There is also still plenty of time to try and make something for the recycle craft. Have Fun!

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Reciprocity

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were in favor of this agreement.

Leonard Healy, President of the Connecticut State Grange (with the endorsement of the State Grange Executive Committee) opposed the agreement.

In remarks to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on Feb. 22, 1911, Healey stated, "the farmers of Connecticut are a unit in opposing the treaty. Every provision of the bill, he said, is detrimental to agriculture." Healey was accompanied by F.E. Duffy of West Hartford Grange who added, "the farmers now get only 35 to 40 percent of the retail prices paid for food products and that any reduction of duties on farm products will hit the farmers hard. They said the consumer would get no benefit from the tariff reduction and that the farming industry of New England would be paralyzed." (*Hartford Courant, Feb. 22, 1911*)

Across the border, Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier of Canada, lauded the agreement as it opened new markets for Canadian natural agricultural products and to a lesser extent, manufactured products. It was believed this arrangement would be more agreeable to the population.

"After much negotiation, Canada signed its first reciprocity agreement with the United States on January 26, 1911. In Laurier's opinion, Canada got the better part of the deal." (*Musée Laurier*)

"Canadian residents were, in large part, opposed to this agreement. They feared annexation by the United States and the loss of Canadian independence." (*Musée Laurier*).

State Grange opposition came to the boiling point during the summer



Sec. of State Philander C. Knox looks on as President Taft signs the Reciprocity Bill at the White House on July 26, 1911. *Library of Congress photo*

of 1911 when the Connecticut State Fair in Hartford proposed a Grange Day to be held on Sept. 7, 1911. In return for the honor of having a special day at the Fair, the State Grange was required to secure a speaker of "national importance" for that day. Before the State Grange could make any arrangements, the Connecticut Congressional delegation with officers of the Fair, petitioned President Taft to speak. The President agreed to appear as he was scheduled to be at his summer home in Beverly, Mass.

The State Grange Executive Committee quickly canceled their involvement with the Fair claiming they had broken their agreement and did not want to appear endorsing the policies of President Taft, especially regarding the reciprocity agreement.

Articles opposing (and a small number supporting) the State Grange's decision splashed across newspapers throughout Connecticut and other parts of the country. Granges passed resolutions opposing the Executive Committee's position as a slight to the President with some being sent to the White House. The Executive Committee put out statements saying they opposed the policies of President Taft but did not oppose the man.

Some of the headlines included:

SENATORS SUMMON GRANGE LAWYERS

To Look Into Matter of Manufacturing Opposition to Reciprocity

Hartford Courant, 5/26/1911

GRANGE WON'T MEET TAFT Connecticut Organization Objects to President's Policy

The New York Times, 8/11/1911

STATE GRANGE INTENDED NO INSULT TO PRESIDENT But Farmers Will Be Heard from if Reciprocity Passes

Norwich Bulletin, 8/30/1911

GOSHEN GRANGERS SUPPORT STATE ORDER

Hartford Courant, 8/26/1911

ORANGE GRANGE SPEAKS OUT

Hartford Courant, 9/4/1911

GRANGERS RESENT THE SNUB TO TAFT

The New York Times, 9/9/1911

ANOTHER GRANGE LINES UP FOR TAFT

Hartford Courant, 9/23/1911

The Connecticut Fair was undeterred and plans for the President's visit moved forward with interest in Taft's visit growing the longer debate over the issues continued.

...Continued on page 4

Reciprocity

Continued from page three...

The President was greeted at the State Capitol at 12:30 on Sept. 7 by the Governor accompanied by the Governor's Footguard and the Second Division of the Naval Militia to serve as an escort. After a short parade through the city to the State Library, a luncheon was held with 85 guests invited by Governor Baldwin. The Connecticut State Grange was invited but there is no record of the Grange representatives attending the event.

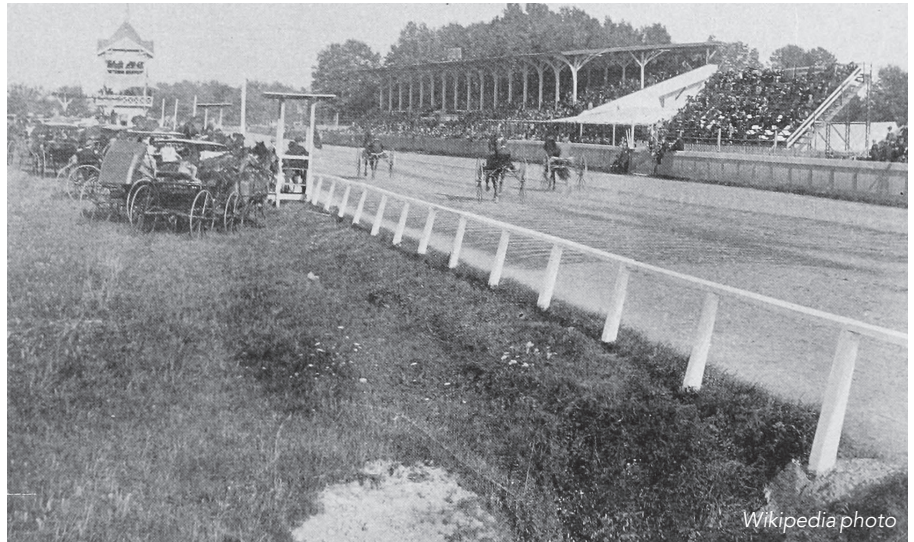
Following the luncheon, the President, the Governor and their guests were taken to Charter Oak Park where both spoke on the grandstand to a packed crowd following the Grand Circuit horse races. By 5:00 the President was on his way back to Massachusetts and the much debated visit came to a close.

Fourteen days after Taft's visit to Hartford, Canadian voters effectively killed the reciprocity agreement in their Parliamentary elections, electing Conservative Robert Borden as the eighth prime minister of Canada.

Until the Reciprocity Agreement and an additional controversy about establishing a Royal Canadian Navy, Wilfrid Laurier had served 15 years as Prime Minister. He is widely considered one of the top 3 prime ministers to this day. His popularity could not save him from this defeat.

With the end of the agreement, Connecticut and northeastern farmers would not know how it actually would have effected them but the debates about free trade and tariffs with Canada have continued off and on over the 100+ years since the 1911 agreement.

What was Charter Oak Park?



by Todd Gelineau, Editor

Charter Oak Park was a harness racing track located along Flatbush Avenue (near the Hartford/West Hartford town line) in Hartford. It was established in 1874 and was open until 1931 with a four year suspension of operations when the State of Connecticut passed an anti-gambling bill in 1893.

Built by the Connecticut Stock Breeder's Association at a cost of \$100,000, the park boasted a one-mile oval track on 143 acres of land, with a 4,000 seat grandstand and open space for an additional 2,000 guests.

During its history the park hosted college track and field, bicycle events, harness races, and more. In 1911, the park held motor races and one race between an automobile driven by Barney Oldfield and biplane pilot Lincoln Beachey. The Connecticut Agricultural Society used the park to host the Connecticut State Fair from 1874 to 1881. In 1908 the Connecticut State Fair began a new run at the park.

Following President Taft's appearance at the Connecticut State Fair in 1911, presidential candidates Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson spoke at the 1912 fair ahead of that year's election. Roosevelt had supported Taft as his successor in the 1909 election but became angered with his conservative positions.

As mentioned in a previous article, Roosevelt's sister Anna, lived a few miles away in Farmington and was a member of Farmington Grange.

Despite its popularity and the draw of national leaders, the Connecticut State Fair never became financially successful and had closed by 1929.

The fairgrounds were acquired by Chase National Bank in 1931 and in 1937 Pratt & Whitney Aircraft purchased the property and the track buildings were torn down prior to a new factory being opened on the property in 1939. In 1941, Pratt & Whitney contracted with the War Department to produce precision gauges and machine tools for the war effort in their new building.

Despite community opposition, the former factory site was cleared 50 years later for a new BJ's Wholesale Club and a Home Depot.

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
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When I was a kid in the 60's going around the neighborhood, you either went through the woods or walked. Walking was the method we used the most. So, by walking we would kick cans down the road. It taught us skills of aim and length of kick. I'd start out at 5 feet, then 10 feet and then 20 feet. After that I usually lost the can in the weeds, or got to our destination. This memory reminds me of today's Congress and the Presidency. They haven't passed a budget so they kick the can with continuing resolutions to avoid a shut-down of the government.

On April 2, the President announced his grand tariff plan to equal trade, reduce our taxes, and make money to offset the nation's debt. After the announcement, the stock market took a deep dive as reported in the last article. Nations responded by levying taxes on the United States. Stocks continued to fall and prices rose and some shortages began because cargo container ships stopped sailing to the United States. Week after week we watch with no movement in the tariff war.

China retaliated with higher tariffs to the U.S. and stated that China has been around for 5,000 years and would not be pushed by a country of 250 years. No deals were made, businesses are waiting to see the next move. Major stores are saying with no deal, there will be empty shelves. Toy manufacturers noted there will be limited toys for

Christmas. After the President's 100 day celebration, the television lit up with 90 deals, 100 deals, 200 deals are in the works. Victory!

In the First Degree, the Overseer instructs us to have a pencil, knife and note pad. To observe the weather, rain, field condition, weeds or insects, for the record of this year and planning for the next season. If we looked and listened to the events in April, we would see a pattern. First, an announcement of new deals being negotiated or in the works, then before the weekend came, bad news came and stocks took a hit. Over the weekend, wheeling and dealing was happening in back rooms and a deal was announced, but also hints were sent out to invest! Monday's stocks were at a low and BOOM, a deal was made, deal done, and stocks shot to the moon. "Winner, winner chicken dinner!" Then the next day, oops, the deal fell through and stocks fell back to Monday's lows. We see this happen time and time again, four times since the tariffs were announced. Who profits for these events? Billionaires of course, promise kept.

From the beginning of this Presidency, his goal was to fix the economy through tariffs. President McKinley did them and we had the Gilded Age where the rich got richer on the backs of the poor and laborers. Let's not forget the rest of Mr. McKinley's term. He was assassinated in Buffalo, NY and Teddy Roosevelt became President, correcting the course that brought down the recession McKinley's tariffs brought to the U.S. We have seen this picture before and the path we are on is full of obstacles, rough and uneven, environed with dangers, and lead you to no what where.

With me you find ease and comfort. While others are racking the mind and body in seeking something new and better, we can secure enjoyment without mental or physical exertion. We need to see that the rich get richer and all the programs that the poor and needy require have been stripped away to make way for the tax cuts for the rich. By the way, many of our legislators are in the rich group. So the questions has been, do they represent the needs of their constituents, or do they represent their own wealth? In time we all look into our hearts and ask, are you better off than you were one year ago?

Many storms have hit the U.S. with tornadoes, flash flooding, wildland fires, hail and lightning strikes, earthquakes and volcano noises off the coast of Oregon. Wow! The states are responsible for disaster response. Good luck with that. We are back to neighbor helping neighbors. So where is all the stored supplies that are in FEMA warehouses? Do the states get them?

The health department and FDA have moved to remove fluoride from drinking water, which strengthen children's teeth. Aye they are removing fluoride from the stores, making it difficult for parents who want to give their children fluoride.

All the events of no free speech, no day in court, and the violation of Constitutional rights, which we are witnessing in this government. The questions is where are all the Libertarians, Federalists, anti-government supporters?

We have a new Postmaster General, former CEO of FedEx and Waste Management, maybe he will get control of the disaster of the Postal System DeJoy left. Hey, he may reduce the junk mail I get, because he knows how to take out the trash.

Happy Father's Day!~

The views expressed in the Legislative Column are not necessarily those of the Connecticut Granger or the Connecticut State Grange.

Inverting the Pyramid



**Jody & Jodi Ann
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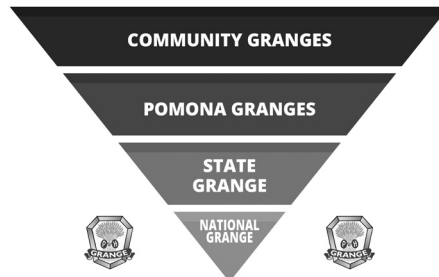
When we think of the overall structure of any business or organization we immediately think of the hierarchy of management. Every business has a President (leader), some or several executive positions, then mid-managers and lastly workers. The Grange is structured the same way, President, Executive Committee, Officers and Members.

Some businesses have subsidiaries or branches of a larger corporation. The State, Pomona and Community Granges, if you will, are subsidiaries of the National, for the National Grange issues the Charters for each level under their umbrella.

We are taught to look up to, not down upon people, to raise them up, not knock them down. With the spirit of Granging in your mind and heart please look at the inverted "Grange Hierarchy Pyramid"

Many of us have been raised to respect authority or those in a leadership position. These people were elevated to a status of higher responsibility. We join the Grange as a Community Grange member, then attain the knowledge and teaching to rise to the ranks of Pomona, reaching higher and now we are members of the State Grange, then the Golden Goose Egg NATIONAL Grange. There is no higher aspiration in our order than receiving the teaching of the 7th Degree, we've made it. YES!!! We're at the top, or are we????

We believe the higher teaching, lessons and responsibilities of the levels of Pomona, State and National Grange are to be respected, but we adamantly feel we need to look at how the pyramid



is filled, like a funnel if you will. The Grange pyramid is filled or fueled by the Community Grange. We join a Community Grange; we cannot benefit from the lessons of the higher levels without being in a Community Grange. We as Community Grange members initiate all policies of our State and National Grange. Without each and every Community Grange member, there is no Pomona, State or National Grange. But remember, with responsibility, comes responsibility! There are procedures and rules to follow. There

is a formatted structure that makes us GRANGE. When you go into any franchised store or restaurant, they are all the same basically, that way you, as the customer get used to the brand, recognize that brand and become loyal to that brand. Basic marketing.

If you don't like the branding, propose change. Use the structure and rules set forth by Grange practice, be the change you want to see. Feed the funnel with positive influence, build support at each level as it progresses through the pyramid, there are less to influence the deeper you go. Again, as we are exhibiting in the inverted pyramid, everything we do, everything we are, is because we are Community Grange Members. We create the policy, we create direction, we create the FUTURE.

We encourage each of you to live a connected life, connect with your fellow members at all levels, because they too are Community Grange Members.

Women Wise Event



The National Grange and Rural Minds are working with researchers at Mayo Clinic on a project to involve more women in patient-centered research on alcohol misuse. Studies show that women experience more health problems related to alcohol use than men. Unfortunately, it's often more challenging for women to get treatment and participate in research studies for alcohol misuse.

The NNDC and Mayo Clinic are hosting a virtual event on Monday, July 14, 2025 from 6:00-7:30pm CT / 7:00-8:30pm ET for attendees to learn

more and share their perspectives on the following:

- Health and treatment-related disparities in alcohol misuse among women
 - Patient-centered comparative effectiveness research
 - Perceptions and experiences on how to address treatment barriers
 - Perspectives on areas for future research on alcohol misuse in women
- Female attendees ages 18+ are welcome to join if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Lived experience with alcohol misuse (past or current), or
- Family member of a woman with alcohol misuse, or
- Healthcare provider or trainee specializing in alcohol misuse

Attendees will receive a \$150 prepaid cash card in thanks for their participation. If you are interested in attending, please visit the web address: <https://redcap2.mayo.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=EHEEW8K9WALCNAXX>

- Select "Rural Minds" or "National Grange" to register.

Bringing the Meeting to Life: The Benefits of Adding Program Substance to Your Grange



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

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Members gather regularly in Grange halls across Connecticut to conduct the essential business that keeps our local Granges running. But beyond motions and minutes lies a powerful opportunity for Lecturers/Program Directors: the chance to enrich meetings with meaningful program substance that educates, inspires, and connects us more deeply—to each other and our communities.

Making the Grange Meeting a Destination

When Grange meetings offer something more informative, engaging, or entertaining, they become events that members look forward to. Whether it's a guest speaker, a local history presentation, a demonstration on backyard composting, or a musical performance by local students, a well-planned program breathes life into the meeting format. It gives members a reason to come early, stay late, and invite a friend.

Strengthening Community Roots

Connecticut's small towns and rural areas are full of talented people with stories to tell and expertise to share. Incorporating program substance into your meetings opens the door to deeper community involvement. Inviting a local farmer to speak on sustainable practices or a selectman to discuss civic priorities creates new relationships and aligns the Grange with real-time community issues.

Programs can also be a way to partner with schools, libraries, land trusts, historical societies, or food banks, creating collaborations that extend the Grange's presence and purpose beyond its walls.

Enhancing Member Experience and Retention

Many Grangers wear multiple hats—farmers, educators, parents, and volunteers. We show that their time at the Grange is valued and worthwhile by offering program segments that speak to their interests or introduce new skills. These moments of learning and inspiration are often what members remember most and keep returning.

Moreover, rotating program responsibilities among members is a great way to foster leadership and creativity. It encourages active participation and brings fresh energy to every meeting.

Attracting the Next Generation

A relevant and engaging program can be the hook that draws in new members, especially younger ones. Today's prospective members often seek spaces where they can learn, contribute, and be part of something bigger. When they see a Grange meeting that features thoughtful discussion, community service, and cultural programming, they know a place where their presence matters.

Public programs—advertised on social media or local calendars—also make introducing people to the Grange easy in a low-pressure setting.

A Return to Our Roots

Grangers on the Loose



Program substance isn't a new idea—it's a return to tradition. In the early days of the Grange, educational lectures, literary readings, and agricultural demonstrations were cornerstones of the meeting experience. Our founders believed that a well-informed citizenry was essential to strong communities. Adding substance to today's meetings honors that legacy.

Small Steps, Big Impact

You don't need to start with a complete agenda overhaul. A 10- to 15-minute segment—perhaps led by a member or a local guest selected by the Lecturer/Program Director—is often all it takes to get people talking and thinking. Over time, you may find that the "program" becomes the highlight of the meeting.

In an era when people have more options than ever for how they spend their time, the Grange can stand out by offering something meaningful. By adding program substance to our meetings, we transform them from routine obligations into vibrant gatherings full of purpose and ensure that the Grange remains a vital force in Connecticut life for generations. Each month, many Lecturers report their programs to me. How about trying new ideas and letting me share your successes across the state?

It's always a treat to attend a local event and bump into fellow Grangers who are now friends.

Thank you to the Redding Garden Club for hosting Redding Grange at your fabulous plant sale - a highlight of our town's event calendar! See you next year!!



VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

June 6: Mystery Ride

July 11: Fireflies

Aug. 8: Ice Cream; Potluck Picnic

At our May meeting, Family Activities Director Dawn Percoski presented a fun and informative program with jokes, a skit, a ritual quiz and information on poison ivy. We enjoyed sampling both entries in the Baking Contest. The chocolate frosted single layer cakes were deemed delicious. Carol Nelson took first place, Cherie Robinson:second.

After a short meeting, we will embark on a mystery ride. We welcome you to come along with us, it will be a great evening. Please let me know in advance, so we can arrange carpooling, as the spot has limited parking.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

We are in need of your help. We need many repairs on our historic Grange Hall. We are in the process of getting quotes for a new roof and a new furnace. We want to apply to various grants in the area. We understand that writing a grant can be a major undertaking and there are certain people that are considered grant writers. We need your help finding such a person. If you know of anyone willing to help us in this way, please e mail me at pennybennett654@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

We had a fabulous time at our Gospel sing along last week. Many thanks to the various singers and bands that volunteered. Linda Colongo, Pastor Jonathan Chapman of Westfield Congregational church of Christ, Nick Anderson and his band, and the Hosmer Mountain Band and our wonderful emcee Claude Proch. Donations were collected and divided between Friends of Assisi (local food pantry) and our Grange's roof fund. A big thanks to all that attended.

We have a few events in the works and will keep you posted. If you would like to hear about our

upcoming events, please e mail me at the above address and I will add you to our list of supporters. Thank you for your support.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

June 13: WWII, Germany

June 27: Annual Picnic at 6:30, followed by games.

What a warm, wonderful evening we experienced on April 25. We celebrated our Community Citizen, Paul Ames, and honored many long-time members. Our State Representative and our First Selectman presented Paul with plaques and certificates honoring his many years of volunteerism in our town. State Overseer Ted Powell was on hand to present seals, certificates and letters to Silver Star, Golden Sheaf and 75 Year and an 80 year member.

Forty-nine people filled the hall to enjoy a skit on Paul's life and the rest of Sue's great program. Our President, Robert Miner, read a congratulatory letter from the State President to Meredith Pappadia on her 80 years of continuous membership in our Grange. Charlie Smith received his 75 year letter, Dick and Camilla Tarryk, members from our newly merged Preston City Grange recieved their Golden Sheaf certificates and our Overseer/Treasurer, Charlie Pianka received his Silver Star. At the conclusion of the program our long-time, newly retired Secretary (who received her 55 year seal earlier) was presented with her Past Secretary's pin and a lovely plaque from Brother Powell. Cheree Miner, aided by members, outdid herself on the delicious refreshments enjoyed by all as we gathered for fellowship after the meeting. Seemed like old times! And if summer will just hurry along a bit, next time we will tell you all about merry May.



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.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Preserving and Archiving Grange History: A Valuable Opportunity

Terri Fassio, Public Rel. Co-Director

Granges can greatly benefit from safeguarding their historical photos and documents. These records offer insights into their mission/vision, community impact, and historical evolution, serving as powerful tools for fundraising, storytelling, and future engagement.

Types of Historical Materials:

- Photographs: Past events, members, meetings, community support
- Documents: Meeting minutes, reports, newsletters, legal papers
- Audio/Visuals: Videos, film, audio recordings
- Artifacts and memorabilia: Objects related to the Grange's history

Importance of Your History:

Your Grange's history can:

- Inspire new fundraising ideas
- Prevent repeated mistakes
- Provide compelling stories for online content, thus attracting visitors and supporters who may become members or donors

The Unique Value of Digital Archives:

Many Granges, some 140+ years old, hold their histories in boxes, display cases, or in the memories of long-time members. Digitizing these materials preserves stories that might otherwise be lost due to disasters or the passing of members. A digital archive broadens understanding of the Grange's impact, both within the community and beyond.

What to Save:

Start with routine records

like meeting minutes, financial statements, and lists of officers.

Consider also documenting:

- Fundraising efforts and outcomes
- Community service projects
- Member histories and recordings of their memories
- The founding story and Grange milestones over the years

Building the Archive:

It can be a year-long project of the membership, or the task of just a few

volunteers, but creating a digital archive is a gradual process that involves inventorying, cataloging, and digitizing materials. Once collected, share these stories via website, social media, print, and physical displays. For example, identify unknown individuals in photos and ask followers for help. This engagement deepens community ties and may even uncover new Grange connections.

Leveraging Your Archive:

A well-maintained digital archive can offer Grange outreach opportunities. Highlight stories that helped members as well as helping the Grange as a whole — stories that resonate and can perhaps inspire donations. Ultimately, preserving history not only honors the past but also secures a thriving future for your Grange.

Wallingford 140th Anniversary



Wallingford Grange celebrated its 140th Anniversary (Org. May 27, 1885) in May. Nearly closed permanently in 2020, Wallingford reorganized and is thriving. May Vincent Cervoni and the CT General Assembly recognized the milestone with a proclamation.

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.



We heard from Don Offinger on the April Issue photo - "The photo shown for "Last Month" in the May issue, which came in today's mail, presents a lady playing violin. I believe the lady is Ruth Bennett Nytvedt whose family (the Bennetts) had been very involved with Norfield Grange for many years. Her brothers Bill and Francis Bennett were active with Norfield. Mrs. Nytvedt, as I knew her, was a close friend of my family as we all lived nearby one another here in Wilton, and just a stone's throw from the Wilton-Weston town borders. Mrs Nytvedt had been very instrumental (no pun intended) in nurturing my skills as a pianist, playing some high-level piano & violin works together. Perhaps some of the older members at Norfield can corroborate that the photo is indeed of Ruth Nytvedt."



We also heard from Mary Lou Keefe and Ramona Fassio on the April issue photo. They both believe that the woman playing the violin is Elizabeth "Ma" Sonier, who was a music teacher and Grange member in the Winsted area.

Then we heard from Karen Macdonald on the May photo - "Finally I can identify some! Second on left is Lyall Shaw. Middle is Mrs. Brockett I think. Then Marge Sendewicz, and on the far right... perhaps Mildred Bell?

We also heard from George Kotowicz as well on the May photo - "Left to right - I don't know the woman on the end, then Lyle Shaw from Granby, then don't know, then Fran Brockett, also of Granby, then don't know, and then perhaps at the end is Doris Shaw? It might have been a Memorial Day program at Granby Grange Hall, as it doesn't look like Tunxis."



WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Patricia Smaldone

Whigville folks are thrilled to announce the completion of Niko Golfin's Eagle Scout project to install a handicap accessible ramp to our building. The project was completed by Niko and a few of his scout team members. Congratulations and a hearty thank you from Whigville Grange #48 and the community!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

June 14: National Soup Month, Ref. Bill & Betty Ahrens

June 17: Election of Officers (Country Store), Ref. Pam Wright

July 8: Ice Cream Month, Ref. Ice Cream Social- All bring toppings.

Winchester Grange received the sad news in May that Golden Sheaf member Sara Bement has passed away. Sara was a dedicated Granger who served as a longtime Family Activities Committee member, Flora, Lady Assistant and many other roles over the years. She was always willing to do what was needed and we will miss her immensely. She will now be able to see her beloved Frances "Torchy" Bement again.

On May 17 Winchester Grange hosted a CPR/AED training workshop conducted by Fairfield Area EMT Dave Mitkowski. Over a dozen members attended and received hands-on training which demystified the assumed complexity of using the defibrillator and administering CPR.

Winchester Grange has installed

Whigville ramp completed



Niko Golfin's (far right) Eagle Scout Project to install a handicap accessible ramp at Whigville Grange in Burlington is now complete. He is pictured with helpers from his Scout team.

an AED in the hallway just outside the main hall and hope we never have the need to use it but it is important to have on hand as paramedics have to respond from downtown Winsted to Winchester Center in an emergency. We thank the Northwest Community Foundation for making this life saving tool possible for our Grange.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

June 7 & 8: Plant & Rummage Sale 9AM-3PM both days

June 12: Dairy Month by Debra Tyler Ref: Debra Tyler

July 10: Roots Run Deep by Chris Hopkins Ref: Ruth Schnell

Aug. 2: Square & Contra Dance by Dance committee Ref: All

Note: Dance is 7PM-9PM and all dances are taught and called.

Aug. 14: Llamas by Debra Tyler & Election of Officers Ref: Debra Tyler

NOTE: Refreshments & Social Time at 7PM with Meetings at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

We welcomed Lynn Kearcher by Obligation, as a member of Taghhannuck at our May meeting. We were also delighted to have visitors from Whigville Grange- James Mele Vice-President of Whigville Grange, Kim Mele Chaplain of Whigville

Grange and her husband Vinnie who is "the driver". As is our custom they were immediately put to work. Thank you, James, for filling the Assistant Steward position and all of them helping set-up the Hall for our meeting and also after the meeting setting up for our Plant and Rummage sale.

Our G note collection is growing with members as far away as Virginia adding to the collection. Thank you, Bill and Diane. We are also adding books for the summer Bookmobile. Our last two square and contra dances will be held the first Saturday of August and November from 7PM to 9PM.

Come to our annual Plant and Rummage sale. It is held both Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8th from 9AM to 3PM at the Sharon Grange Hall which is located at 7 Dunbar Road, off Route #4 between Sharon and Cornwall Bridge. Our Grange will be holding the Rummage sale inside the hall and a plant sale outside the hall. The plant sale features large healthy plants ready for your garden including heirloom varieties. The rummage sale has something for everyone at bargain prices.

Continued next page...

CPR Training at Winchester



Dave Mitkowski instructs Grange members on CPR and use of the AED at a Training held at the Grange on May 17 with 12 members receiving instruction. (Right) Winchester Grange President Patrick O'Brien practices his compressions while Sue Addison looks on.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

This is the "Centennial Year" of the Bethlehem Fair. Although it evolved to be the Town of Bethlehem's Fair, our Grange started this Fair in 1925. We are planning to stage a 100-year Birthday Exhibit in the Scarecrow Barn on the fairgrounds. Save the date for the weekend Fair starting Friday night, September 5-7.

Bethlehem Grange will meet on Sunday, June 25th at 2pm. Program: Hydrangeas - Robert Buck and Refreshments - Picnic

As this piece is written prior to our May 18th meeting, I am unable to announce the winner of the cake baking contest.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: David Roberts

June 1: 41st Veteran of the Month ceremony at the hall featuring WWII veterans who were members of Riverton Grange, 6:00 PM. Open to All; refreshments will be served following the ceremony. The event is co-sponsored in collaboration with Riverton American Legion Post #159.

June 6: Riverton Grange #169's monthly in-person meeting (with Zoom option). Refreshments will be served at 6:30 PM, and the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

June 8: Diabetes Walk at Six Flags New England.

June 21: 8th American Flag Retirement Ceremony at 4:00 PM; NEW LOCATION: 35 Old North Road, Colebrook. Location is accessible to all. Partners of Riverton Grange include: Riverton American Legion Post #159; Granby American Legion Post #182;

Barkhamsted Forks Senior Center; Riverton, Northwestern CT Cyber, and Barkhamsted Lions Clubs; Granby Grange #5; and Granby Cub Scouts.

Riverton Grange conducted its May membership meeting on Friday, May 2nd, with another large attendance. Three visitors from Whigville Grange joined us and commented on how nice it was to see a Grange hall full of members. Before the meeting, a special Kitchen Renovation meeting was held to discuss the next steps in renovating the historic Grange Hall's kitchen. A new plan has been proposed and approved by the Grange membership. The Grange is grateful for the \$1,000 donation from the Connecticut State Grange Foundation to support this project. The Grange's largest tenant, Barkhamsted Forks Senior Center, continues to hold weekly lunches at the Hall for seniors with packed attendance.

These lunches are open to all, and it is nice to see attendance from Riverton, Winchester, and Granby Granges each week. The Grange unanimously approved a resolution voicing its strong opposition to any National Grange dues increase at this time and will next take this resolution to Mountain Laurel Pomona. Members appreciated Connecticut State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau for helping our Grange correct misinformation to ensure we are factual in our opposition. The Lecturer's program was hosted by the Youth and Juniors Committees, chaired by Dawn Anstett, and focused on the Second Degree. The program was both informative and fun.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

We have had a wonderful and busy spring season celebrating April as Grange Month and hosting Beaver Pond Wildlife films and several Music Mondays. Next up is our annual Agricultural Fair on Saturday, June 14th from 10-3. We will have local non-profit tables for community organizations, table displays supporting our local farms, a crock pot kitchen, bake sale, adult and children's contests with cash prizes, dance demonstrations, children's activities and a local favorite, Out the Boxx live band from 12:30-2:30. We'd love to see you.



Riverton Grange Youth Director Dawn Anstett teaches members about the Second Degree and planting corn.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Can't tell you the outcome of the next Pomona meeting as it is three weeks away but I can tell you what is on the agenda. Election of a Secretary and Flora as both officers found it necessary to resign. At the last meeting, Harmony Grange presented three resolutions, one was returned to be tweaked and Lecturer Robert Charbonneau will present his program entitled "Fun in the Sun."

As a youngster, I loved to be out in the sun at the beach and playing. Growing older, I looked for a tree and as I got old I look for the sun again as it feels good on these old bones.

The next meeting is Sunday, September 28 at Beacon Valley Grange. Why not come and get your exercise? Exercise your head and bring voting on resolutions, your eyes checking your winning numbers on the country store tickets, your lungs and mouth singing the songs, your face and smile from something on the program, your ears listening to what's taking place in the meeting, your hands and arms voting on motions, your legs getting you into the meeting, back out to the car and going to the refreshment table and your belly enjoying the refreshments. Where else can you get such a complete exercise routine?

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

June 4: Election of Officers and Memorial Program-Pot Luck Supper 6:30 PM

June 18: June's Bucket List

We will be entertaining some electrical repairs to our hall. Always something. Our Spring dinners greatly added to our treasury. Our Dean Martin/Frank Sinatra Tribute Artists were well received at our May 7th meeting. We have a couple of offices to fill at our Election of Officers night in early June. The rest of the summer will involve us all with our late August Fair. It is an ongoing summer project.

We wish everyone an enjoyable summer.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

We celebrated Earth Day in collaboration with Lyman Hall (Future Farmers of America) and gave away seeds and plants while also sharing information about how to start and grow one's own garden and plants. Thank you to Lyman Hall FFA for donating annual plants for us to give away and resources to hand out at this event.

Outside of Earth Day celebrations, we had several local musicians and bands complete spectacular performances at the Wallingford In Tune Concert Series at the Grange Hall. The event was a blast with many people attending, enjoying the performances, and listening to the music. Thank you to everyone who came out, to all who volunteered, and to Tom Caneschi and Scott Amore for organizing this event.

From June to Aug., some special events Wallingford Grange is looking forward to hosting include:

The New England Cider Brewery Tour and Educational Event, June 4, 6-8 PM at the brewery).

Meatball Sandwich Luncheon (June 14, 12-2 PM).

Youth Owl Pellet Dissection (June 14, 12-2 PM)

Youth Magic Workshop (June 25, 6-7:30 PM)

Pancake Breakfast and Sun Prints Youth Activity (July 12, 8:30-11).

Harvesting Honeys and Tastings (July 15, 6-8 PM)

Mocktails & Herbs Educational Event (Aug. 5, 6-8 PM).

To stay informed about these different happenings and upcoming events at Wallingford Grange, please follow our "Wallingford Grange" Facebook page. Hope to see you at these events!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

In keeping with our animal theme for the year, dogs will be barking at our 136th anniversary celebration on Friday, June 13. Starting with "How Much is That Doggie in the Window" to hot dogs for refreshments. We will have a country store and the drawing of our semi-annual raffle.

Paul Paloski will be honored as our "Citizen of the Year". Paul is very active with our Scout Troop as well as volunteering with a couple of local churches and others.

We will also be presenting our Master Joanne Cipriano with her 75 year continuous membership certificate. Todd Gelineau, Secretary of the Connecticut State Grange will do the presentation.

Our open mic is really growing. Come and enjoy part or all three hours of great entertainment. The third Saturday of each month from 2 to 5. June 21st is the next date.

Our monthly Tag Sale is on the same date from 9 to 2.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

June 13: Memorial

June 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

July 11: Picnic & Meeting, 6:00

July 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



We got to go to the 140th Anniversary celebration for Wallingford Grange #33. It was great. Met State Representative Mary Mushinsky and Mayor Vincent Cervoni who honored the Grange with special citations from the General Assembly and Town of Wallingford, respectively. Rob presented Wallingford grange with their Grange in Action 2024 certificate from National Grange. VP Aili McKeen presented a Quilt of Valor to a veteran Ms. Ryan Dostie. Past President Noel Miller and wife Marcia also attended. As always in Grange, we were fed well!

May 4- Friday night, we visited Nancy and her group of dedicated Grangers in Vernon. Got to sample the baking contest cake and boy, was it good, Yum-Yum! Next month is the Mystery Ride. We haven't been on one in some time and can't wait.

Saturday night it was off to Eastern CT Pomona for inspection. The Fifth Degree was nice with four candidates, now members. Coffee hour was great socializing with friends and being well fed! Congratulations on a job well done.



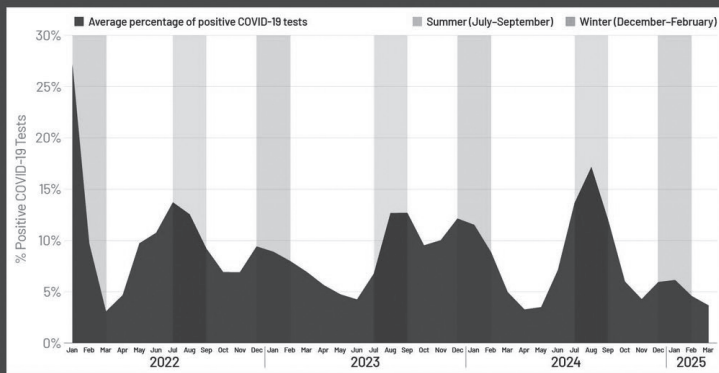
Eastern Connecticut Pomona



Vernon Grange #52

COVID-19 is a Year-Round Threat

While COVID-19 cases often increase during the winter, past years have shown that surges can happen any time of year. You can reduce your risk of severe illness by receiving recommended vaccines.



Learn more at
cveep.org/stayprotected

CVEEP
Fighting Infectious
Respiratory Disease



Greenfield Hill Grange has adopted a street in their community.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

14th LECTURERS' ROUND UP

zoom

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025
• 7:00 PM •

Let's gather VIRTUALLY on ZOOM to discuss the latest news and programs from the Lecturers' Department.
Spotlight: "Partnering with Other Organizations to Expand Your Grange's Service."

For More Information and ZOOM Credentials:
CT State Grange Lecturer/Program Director Dave Roberts
lecturer@ctstategrange.org • granbydavidroberts@gmail.com
860-469-5067

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Family Festival

Friday, August 1
Saturday, August 2
Sunday, August 3

Friday:
Entry Drop Off
3:00 - 6:00 PM

Saturday:
Entry Drop Off:
before 10:30 AM
Judging Begins:
11:00 AM

Sunday:
• Entries on Display •
• Pancake Breakfast •
hosted by Hillstown Grange
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM
• Tea Cup Auction •

HILLSTOWN GRANGE HALL
617 Hills Street
East Hartford, CT 06118

For More Information:
Dawn Percoski, Family Activities Chair • familyactivities@ctstategrange.org
Dave Roberts, State Grange Lecturer • lecturer@ctstategrange.org
www.ctstategrange.org

Family Activities Department:
NE Region Needlework Contest
Family Activities Contests
Baking • Crafts • Junior Contests
Everything Gnome Contest
Decorate and/or Make
a Picture Frame
and more!

★★★★★
Lecturer's Department:
Photo Contests
Lecturer's Program

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

GRANGE WORK DAY @ THE BIG E

Sunday
JUNE 29, 2025
Starting at 1:00 PM

The New England Grange Building
on the grounds of THE BIG E
1305 Memorial Ave. West Springfield, MA 01089

We would really appreciate anyone who would be able to volunteer to come and help mark items that are new as well as set up the inventory to get ready for the Big E's opening day.

For more information: familyactivities@ctstategrange.org

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Virtual Social Hour

zoom

"That's a spicy meatball!"
Fun with branding
through Commercials

Thursday, July 17th • 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering.
A brief program will be presented.

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org for info and Zoom Credentials



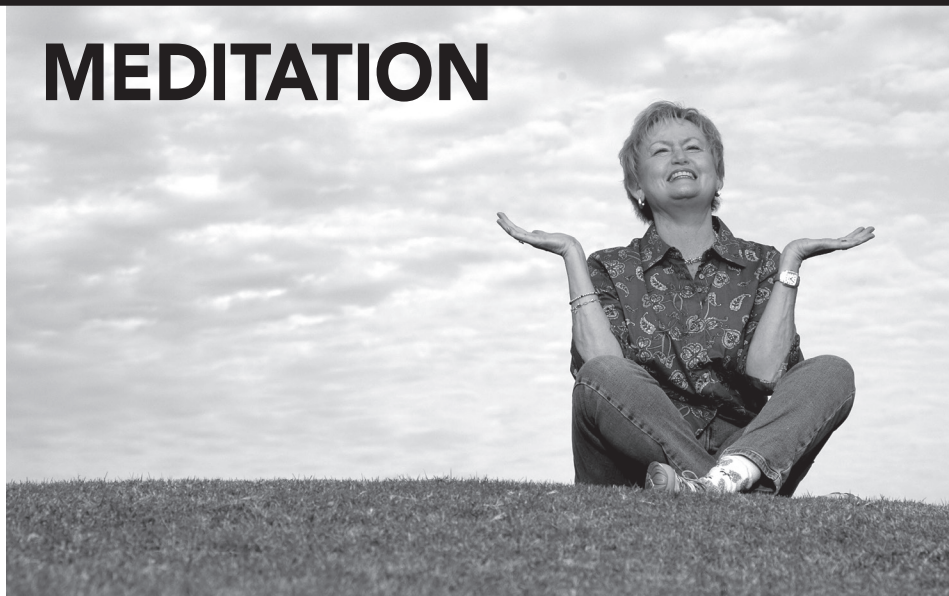
Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. *Psalm 1:1-2*

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. *Philippians 4:8*

Meditation is a spiritual practice that is found in most religions. It has a long history in Judaism, Christianity, and certain forms of Islam. It is a dominant theme in some forms of Buddhism and Hinduism. It is hard to define just what meditation is other than to say it is thinking deeply about some subject or concept.

Why should we meditate? And why is the concept here in my Chaplain's Column? Meditation offers numerous spiritual benefits, including fostering a deeper connection with oneself and the divine, enhancing self-awareness, and promoting inner peace and tranquility. It can also lead to a greater sense of compassion and a



MEDITATION

desire to "do good".

In most Old Testament references meditation on God's Law is a common subject recommended for deep thought. One should also meditate on God's deeds throughout history, his works and his promises, and his everlasting love for his people. Christian meditation often focuses on contemplation of particular passages of scripture to try to discern what God is trying to tell us.

There are many different methods recommended for meditation, so many that I am reluctant to recommend any one as better than any other. For me the first thing is to find some way to shut out the world around me so that I may concentrate. This does not necessarily require finding an isolated cave high up a mountain. For instance, a long train ride [or

plane ride] may be quite suitable for ignoring the outside world

One form of meditation you might try is called *Lectio Divina*. It involves first preparing yourself to receive God's word, then slowly reading a short passage of scripture, being aware of any part of the reading that seems to jump out for attention, then reading again, reflecting on the words, then writing down your reflections and your response, and then finally resting in silent contemplation. I suggest you try it.

In Memoriam

Sara Bement
Winchester Grange #74

Beverly Robertson
N. Stonington Comm. #138

"Well done, good and faithful servants."