



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

October 2021

We'll see you in Norwich



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

October, the month of Fall Festivals, Fairs and the Connecticut State Grange Annual Session. On October 21st to the 23rd we will be meeting in-person at the Holiday Inn Norwich. Can you believe it's been two years since we have met there in-person? As of the middle of September and I am writing this report, Norwich has a mask mandate. Masks must be worn in any public building. We will have masks and plenty of hand sanitizer on hand to make this a safe three-day session. Let's all do our part and follow the mandate that is in place in Norwich while you're visiting their city.

I would like to welcome Steve Coye as our National Representative. I've had the pleasure of working with Steve over the last several years on the Northeast Connection and on the New England Grange Building Committee. Steve is the President of the New York State Grange and a member of the National Grange Executive Committee.

On August 31st, I attended an online meeting with the National President Betsy Huber and the National Executive Committee along with the other State Presidents. We discussed the

National Grange Headquarters Building. The 61-year-old, 11 story building needs a lot of repair. Recent updates included a new roof, new boiler and a new air conditioning system but many other repairs that are necessary. There are a lot of problems like leaking pipes, an aging electrical system and many other repairs that need attention. They are estimating this project will cost \$4.5 million in total

The National Grange Headquarters...

All options on the table

by Betsy Huber,
National Grange President

Every Grange member is extremely proud of our headquarters building, located around the corner from the White House in Washington, DC. We own a beautiful, 11 story building in a fan-tastic location in the capitol city of our country.

The building is 61 years old now and hasn't always had the ongoing maintenance that it needed. There are a lot of little problems like leaking pipes, an aging electrical system, and lots of other big things that are needing attention. Recent updates include new roof, new boiler and a new air conditioning system, but many other repairs are necessary. Engineers have provided a variety of estimates and urgent versus important totaling \$4.5 million over the next eight years just to maintain the building's

repairs over the next eight years. A monthly payment for a 20 year mortgage would be \$40,060. This would be a cost of \$9.61 per member, per year. This is a quick overview of the meeting and the discussions we had. There was also an article sent out to be printed in our Connecticut Granger from National. There will be more discussion on this matter at our State Session.

To end this month's article, those of you who are attending the State Session, please drive safely and we will see you there!



safety, status, and its justification for rental rates. Some more extensive repairs like wiring and piping may require us to vacate the building for about two years – both tenants and contents, including the National Grange offices.

Continued next page...

Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange
American Values. Hometown Roots.



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due October 15

National HQ

Continued from page one...

To do any of those projects would require borrowing a lot of money, which is of course a concern. How will we repay the loans? We live off our current income-- we are saving a little bit of money, but nothing close to what it would take to make these needed improvements.

Mechanical issues are not the only problem facing the building, as outdated décor and a changing style of work brought on by the COVID-19

pandemic risks the ability of the Grange to find suitable tenants. The conversation then turns to return on investment – which even with the best-case scenario would take years to pay off– or finding another way to fund the work such as a one-time or multi-year member assessment or major dues increase. With a building appraised at \$13 million according to a 2018 appraisal, with a market value of possibly \$24 million, and a budget that relies heavily on the nearly \$400,000 a year rental income, clearly 1616 H Street is a great asset.

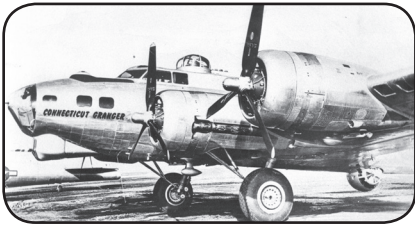
The question, though: Is it worth it? Should we mortgage the future just to have an office close to the White

House? When does an asset become a liability because of the scope of work necessary?

The National Grange Executive Committee has been studying this issue for two years, and states, “all options are on the table.”

Those include borrowing and making necessary repairs in a well-planned, systematic way; or to sell the building outright and find a new building to purchase that is large enough to produce rental income or small enough to house only necessary operations and put the remaining sale profits into investments with hopes for good returns to support our programs and staff.

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:
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THE FACTS

The approximate value of the building:

Assessed value (taxes). \$9,072,010
Appraised value 9/2018 \$13,000,000
Market value \$24,000,000

Current mortgage - \$1,558,400.

The income it brings in (generally):

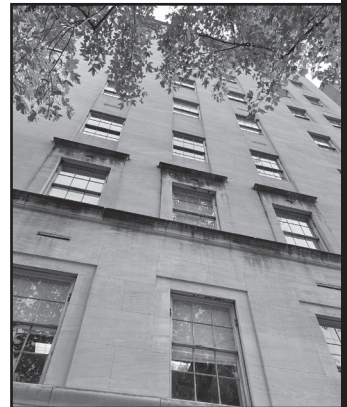
Gross Income: \$1.1 million; net \$385,300

Repairs needed:

Urgent \$485,000
1-3 yrs. \$3,667,500
4-8 yrs. \$825,000

Total needed repairs next 8 years= \$4.5 million

Monthly payments on 20 year mortgage = \$40,060 which would equate to a dues increase of \$9.61 per member per year



On Sept. 21, Cheshire Grange members volunteered their time at the Cheshire Food Pantry to help with their annual product inventory. Pictured l to r: Jane Miller, Ruel Miller, Barbara Foskett and Wesli Dymoke.

Resolutions for Consideration at State Session

The following resolutions were received following the publication of the first set (#1-10) in the August issue. Resolutions 1-10 have been assigned to committees and their assignments follow. The assignments for numbers 11-20 are included at the end of each resolution.

- 1) **LYME DISEASE**
Referred: Agric./Cons. & Envir.
- 2) **TRAFFIC SAFETY**
Referred: Legislative/Insurance
- 3) **TAX ON RETIREMENT**
Referred: Legislative/Insurance
- 4) **Zoom Meetings**
Referred: Good of Order/Members. & Master's Address
- 5) **ANNUAL WORD**
Referred: Cred./Const. & By-Laws
- 6) **ABOLISH ANNUAL PASSWORD**
Referred: Cred/Const. & By-Laws
- 7) **MILKMKT. PRICINGSUBSIDY**
Referred: Agric/Cons. & Environ.
- 8) **CONGRESS TERM LIMITS**
Referred: Legislative/Insurance
- 9) **BUILDING ASSIST. COMM.**
Referred: Good of Ord/Members. & Masters Address
- 10) **GRANGE REP. IN JOURNAL**
Referred: Good of Ord/Members. & Masters Address

11) RE: WELCOMING DIVERSE MEMBERS

WHEREAS the State and Local Granges are having difficulty attracting and retaining members, and

WHEREAS the National Grange Diversity Task Force found that members join and find that the organization is not relevant to them, and

WHEREAS the National Grange Diversity Task Force found that traditional Grange language and titled should be examined to determine if they may offend or repel potential members and

WHEREAS retaining more members who feel welcome to share their diverse experiences and orientations can broaden the understanding of how best to pursue the core Grange missions of community-building and service, and

WHEREAS the National Grange Diversity Task Force has made good progress in highlighting barriers to an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, and

WHEREAS the conversation about diversity and inclusion needs to be an ongoing one to stay relevant.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National Grange establish a standing committee on diversity, and

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

SOURCE: Taghhannuck Grange No. 100

REFERRED: Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

12) RE: RECOGNITION OF TODD GELINEAU & TERRI FASSIO

WHEREAS Todd Gelineau and Terri Fassio contribute many uncompensated hours of work on Connecticut State Grange activities and programs, including the Connecticut Granger, as well as Zoom meetings for a number of meetings, and.

WHEREAS we think it would be fitting to give a one-time gift of appreciation for their dedication and hard work above and beyond the call of duty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange recognize both Todd Gelineau and Terri Fassio to show our appreciation for their dedication and hard work in support of activities and programs of the Connecticut State Grange and that the Connecticut State Grange pay Terri Fassio a one-time gift of \$1,000.00.

SOURCE: Bethlehem Grange No. 121; Mountain Laurel Pomona No. 15

REFERRED: Good of the Order/ Membership & Masters Address

13) RE: BANNING THE SALE OF FLAVORED VAPING PRODUCTS & MENTHOL CIGARETTES & CIGARS

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry

has become a major source of hundreds of flavored products such as Gummy Bears, Cotton Candy, Mint for vaping and Menthol in cigarettes and:

WHEREAS, the main target of the flavored vaping products is young adults who use e-cigarettes, and/or smoke menthol tobacco products and:

WHEREAS, one in five of High School students claim the flavored products are the reason they are vaping, and

WHEREAS, more than half of smokers between the ages of 12 to 17 use menthol cigarettes and flavored vaping products.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut State Grange endorse the ban on the sale of flavored products for e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes and cigars, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee lobby the Connecticut State Legislature to join with our neighbor states Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York in banning the sale of these products, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Connecticut State Grange urge National Grange to promote Federal legislation to ban these flavored vaping products and menthol tobacco products.

SOURCE: Vernon Grange No. 52

REFERRED: Agriculture/ Conservation & Environment

14) RE: CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE OF THE GRANGE

WHEREAS the Grange is the oldest agriculturally based organization in the United States, and

WHEREAS the titles of officers of the Grange have their origins in the farmsteads of England in the 1860's, and

WHEREAS the National Grange acknowledges "that this language is dated and holds connotations that the Grange does not endorse nor have ever believed in." (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/about-us/history/>.

Our Commitment to Inclusion), and
WHEREAS the Grange “does not condone racism as we seek to make all comfortable in Granges and encourage all people of good character to join our organization. (ibid)”, and

WHEREAS the National Grange does “encourage and urge our members to alter their language to use more modern titles that reflect racial sensitivity and inclusiveness.” (ibid); and

WHEREAS the National Grange has “actively taken a position to change our language to President and Vice President and continue to educate ourselves and our members on the impact of language both within our organization and our communities” (ibid), and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut State Grange is urged to adopt contemporary language that reflects racial and gender sensitivity and inclusiveness.

SOURCE: Vernon Grange No. 52, Eastern CT Pomona No. 14

REFERRED: Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

15) RE: DRAPING THE CHARTER CEREMONY

WHEREAS there are members of our Order in good standing that are of a non-Christian faith, and

WHEREAS the Draping of the Charter Ceremony is meant to honor their service to our Grange as well as providing condolences to their families as well as the Grange members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that beginning with the next reprinting of the Subordinate Grange Manual, in the suggestion section of CEREMONY FOR DRAPING A GRANGE CHARTER, a sentence be added to suggest that if the deceased member was not of the Christian faith that an appropriate reading such as the 23rd Psalm be used in place of the Lord’s Prayer if approved by that Grange.

SOURCE: Riverton Grange No. 169

REFERRED: Good of the Order/ Membership & Master’s Address

16) RE: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

WHEREAS Article II of the Constitution of the National Grange allows State Granges to establish an associate class of individual membership, and

WHEREAS Section 4.6.13 of the National Grange By-Laws defines the qualifications for Associate Members and states they may be an individual or business, and

WHEREAS Section 4.8.2 (E) of the National Grange By-Laws provides that the State Grange shall establish both the dues amount as well as the disbursement of the funds, and

WHEREAS many Granges with their own halls are having difficulties maintaining their halls and businesses could assist by joining and their dues would be a legitimate business expense, and

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Grange has not established an Associate Membership Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Executive and Membership Committees of the Connecticut State Grange develop a proposal for Associate Membership in our State which would include the process for becoming a member, qualifications, annual dues including any disbursement to the local Granges as well as any State Grange By-Law changes, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED this proposal be submitted to the 2022 Annual Session for Delegate action.

SOURCE: Riverton Grange No. 169

REFERRED: Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

17) INHERITANCE TAX STEP UP BASIS

WHEREAS the Grange through its legislative body has taken a strong stance in favor of the repeal of the Federal Inheritance Tax, and

WHEREAS Congress is looking at changing the basis for the capital gains tax in the inheritance tax from the step-up basis to use original cost and this would have a detrimental effect on the ability of farm families to pass down their farms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange, through our Legislative Committee, inform our Congressional Delegation

of our support of the current Step-Up in Basis provision for capital gains section of the Inheritance Tax.

SOURCE: Riverton Grange No. 169

REFERRED: Agriculture/Conservation & Environment

18) ROBO CALLS

WHEREAS the number of robo calls continue to increase, and

WHEREAS these calls are annoying and an invasion of privacy to the receiver who pays for this telephone service, and

WHEREAS most people have caller ID and monitor their calls before answering, and

WHEREAS these calls have only a number or say “caller unknown” or something similar which makes it impossible to monitor these calls.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we urge the Federal Communications Commission to insist that all telephone companies supply an identifying name on all calls.

SOURCE: Beacon Valley Pomona No. 103; Nutmeg Pomona No. 16

REFERRED: Legislative/Insurance

19) RE: SALE OF NATIONAL GRANGE HEADQUARTERS

WHEREAS the National Grange Headquarters building located at 1616 H St. NW in Washington D.C. has been a profound point of pride for generations of Grangers since its dedication in June of 1960 by Dwight D. Eisenhower, and

WHEREAS the Headquarters overlooks the White House and is the only privately owned building on a block that includes the White House’s guest residence Blair House, and

WHEREAS deferred maintenance and upgrades of the building through the years have brought the building to a point where massive amounts of money projected to be between 2.4 and 9 million dollars would be required to either maintain the building as a Class C or upgrade it to a Class B office building as classified by Washington, D.C. standards, and

WHEREAS the National Grange published a cover story in the most recent edition of “Good Day!” entitled “The Question is Raised: To Stay or to Go” in which they outline the problems

with the building, occupancy status and challenges related to making and paying for improve-ments/repairs to the building, and

WHEREAS the Good Day! article advances the possibility of doing one of two things:

- 1) Incur substantial debt and repair/upgrade the building while retaining ownership, or
- 2) Sell the building and no longer have a central building, and

WHEREAS communications from the National President discusses the possibility of purchasing or renting space in Washington or neighboring Virginia or Maryland, and

WHEREAS their own accounting estimates the building has an appraised value of \$13,000,000 and a realtor's estimated sale price of \$24,000,000, and

WHEREAS the sale of this building would dramatically increase the coffers of the National Grange even after retiring the current \$1.5M debt, providing the potential for considerable in-vestment income to pay for rented or purchased space in the Metro Washington area, and

WHEREAS the current information coming from National from both the National Master and the article in Good Day! present a limited view of problems and solutions and certainly do not constitute a well-rounded plan or proposal of options for the membership to consider before deciding the fate of this historic structure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National Grange Executive Committee draft a complete proposal for the National Headquarters Building including cost estimates for repairs/upgrades along with all options available to them which include (but may not be limited to) sale of the building, rental of space in the metro area, no headquarters at all, and staying at 1616 H St. NW, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the National Executive Committee present a financial plan should it be decided the National Headquarters should be sold outlining SPECIFICALLY how the money from the sale will be used/invested, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED putting 1616 H St, NW, Washington, D.C. up for sale would require a two-thirds favorable vote of the delegate

bodies of all State Granges, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED this resolution be forwarded to the next session of the National Grange for consideration.

SOURCE: Winchester Grange No. 74

REFERRED: Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

20) RE: APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PLAN FOR SALE OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WHEREAS the National Grange is contemplating the sale of its historic headquarters at 1616 H St., NW in Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS Community and Pomona Granges are required to follow specific guidelines when converting/selling real assets of the Grange, and

WHEREAS National Grange should have comparable requirements in place when selling an as-set that has been such an important asset of the Grange for over sixty years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that should the National Headquarters building located at 1616 H St., NW in Washington, D.C. be sold, a comprehensive financial plan be presented to the various State Granges for adoption by the

delegate bodies of said State Granges, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this financial plan include investment plans, plans for the develop-ment or restoration of Grange programs, and cost forecasts for the lease or purchase of new National Grange headquarters space, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan must receive approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the State Grange delegate bodies before it can move forward.

SOURCE: Winchester Grange No. 74

REFERRED: Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

REFERRED TO THE STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AT THE 2020 SESSION: 2020 RESOLUTION #5 RE: DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

RESOLVED the development rights to all farm and forest lands covered by Connecticut Public Act 490, be eligible for purchase by the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

SOURCE: Stafford Grange No. 1

REFERRED: Back to State Grange Legislative Committee for a report at the 2021 Session.

Welcome back Redding Grange



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

We embrace another Autumn in Connecticut. The warm days, cool nights, leaves in red and gold, apple and pumpkins, warm beverages and sweaters. It all feels like an old friend returning. I enjoy it every year.

This Autumn we will welcome back another old friend as we reorganize Redding Grange #15. Fingers crossed they will have their charter back in November. It is a very exciting time when we can see new faces, enthusiastic community members ready to embrace the Grange mission plus their own communities needs.

All summer myself, our President and the Board have worked together to make this reorganization a reality. Working with the future members has taught me so much about how we are viewed in 2021. The concerns they bring to our Zoom meetings and of course the reality of their responsibilities and other commitments that they fear give them limited availability. There is no reason they can't make an active Grange that fits the needs of membership, their town and today's world.

I have learned so much more about the Grange these past months and my ability to work with members needs improves continually. I look forward to sharing what I have learned at State Session. My committee and I have had a busy year and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Redistricting Time Again



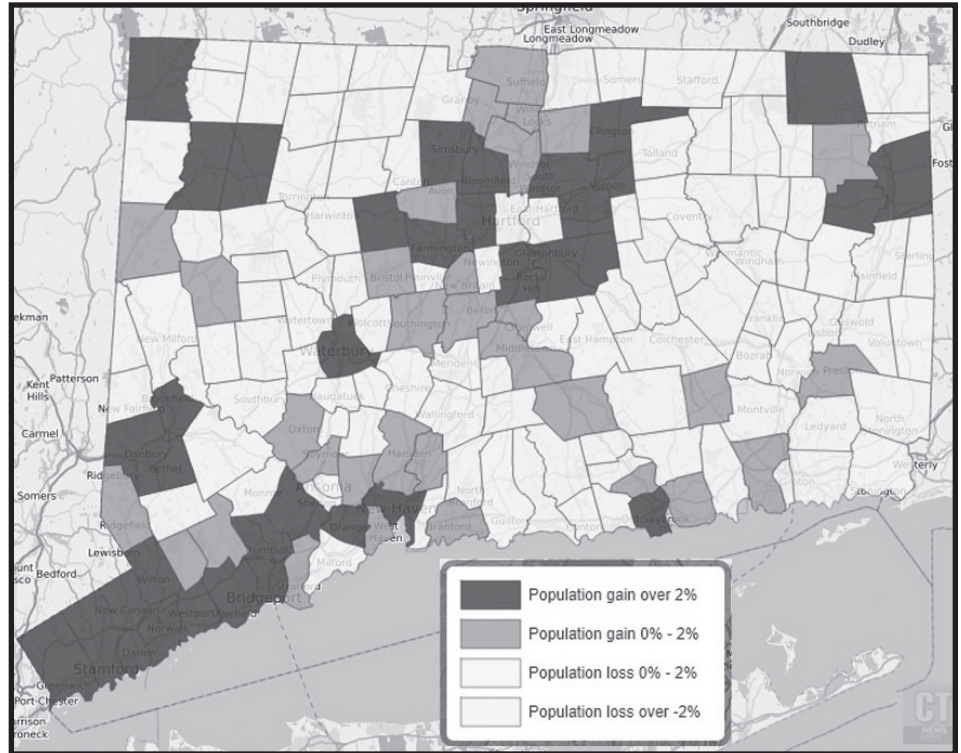
Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Every ten years, after the completion of the national census, Connecticut evaluates and adjusts State and Congressional voting districts.

Redistricting is a process where they are redefining the voters districts. They are redrawing the line using the most recent census data along with other data. They start with calculating the appropriate population levels to even out the population of the district. That is the easy part. They are also looking at voter registration records, homeownership, and demographics (population totals, voting age, race/ethnicity). The goal is to create balanced districts using these demographics that are fair to both parties, which surprisingly usually happens.

Connecticut exhibited a small growth since the last census and has a population of 3.6 million. This growth has occurred mostly in the southwestern portion of the state. Hartford lost population but Stamford gained. This will mean that some mostly western districts will become more compact in size while others mostly in the east will grow in size.

This process starts with the General Assembly's Reappointment Committee who must present their proposed maps by the constitutional deadline of September 15th. Their map will then be presented to the full Legislature who will vote to approve these districts. This committee only met a few times and held a few public hearings, but never produce any district maps by



the deadline.

The Reappointment Committee has now disbanded and a backup commission will now be created. This commission usually consists of the eight legislative leaders and a ninth person who is elected into the position. This new commission must produce congressional and assembly districts maps before a November 30th deadline. These proposed districts do not need to be brought forward to the General Assembly for approval, they will be set as approved by the commission. If the commission cannot agree on the district lines, the process moves

to the Connecticut Supreme Court. The court has only been called on to define district lines once, and that was the last redistricting for congressional districts.

Traditionally the redistricting process has been done behind closed doors. This time there is an option for the public to follow and submit suggestions for districts. There are three free, online mapping tools that are preloaded with the census and election data where you can access the district maps. The sites are: Districtr.org, DavesRedistricting.org, and DistrictBuilder.org.



by Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!
It's been fun going to all the Grange Fairs, and the Big E, to see all of my Grange friends. It's sad to see Fair Season come to an end for this year - but the Grange holiday season is coming up soon!

I can't wait to see all of my friends



in Norwich for the State Grange Annual Session. Stop by and say "Hi" and take a selfie with me too!

Want to follow my adventures? Please visit my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button to keep in touch. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Oct. 2: Bakeless/Foodless Sale

Oct. 7: Fall Harvest 7:30 p.m. Ref. Herb & Ruth Grommeck

Oct. 16: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 4: Turkey Time 7:30 p.m. Ref. Ann Gilnack

Nov. 20: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Welcome back to the Masonic Hall for our meetings. We are following all CDC protocol.

Remember October is the semi-annual Bakeless/Foodless Sale. The Lecturers program for October is "Fall Harvest". Come join us at our meeting and see what Ann has planned.

We have scheduled our Monti-Carlo Whist Card Parties for the season and the first one is October 16th. We need everyone's participation for these to be successful. Try to attend and bring a friend or two with you. The more the merrier. Refreshments are always served.

We are going to take part in the Historical Society's Museum on the Green program. They are currently featuring an exhibit called "In Business for 100 Years". I called and spoke with Lin Scarduzio, Curator at the Museum. She said "yes" we could participate. We are scheduled to have an exhibit from February, March and April 2022. Katz Hardware has their exhibit there now from August, September and October. Then Melzen's Pet Supply will have their exhibit November, December and January.

I look forward to gathering historical "things" together to fill the exhibit area for 3 months. If

any member has something they would like to have us put in the exhibit please contact me. Kay Ruff at 860-481-7007 or kayeruff@gmail.com. We have items in the basement of the Masonic Hall that I must get down there and organize. Your help, in any way, will be appreciated.

I hope you all had a pleasant summer and are looking forward to the "fall season". I am looking forward to seeing you at any of our up-coming meetings and card parties.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Oct. 1: Why Ritual?

Oct. 15: Craft Night

Nov. 5: Guest Speaker: Christian Schirmer

All the meanings of the word "sing" were explained by Cherie. How it gives us health benefits, reduces pain, helps you sleep and keeps our oral history alive, and our new ASL word was also "sing" at our Sept. meeting. (Read the opening page of the Patron).

She also has us busy as bees working on the next Community Service Project. All reports have been submitted. Some of our members won prizes at the State Needlework Contest as we look forward to starting a new year with a pumpkin theme.

A get well shout out to Dot Dimmick, we miss you and think of you often. Always check with Nancy if you plan on attending a meeting to see if we will be at the

hall or on Zoom. We love visitors.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Oct. 8: Installation of Officers

Oct. 29: Halloween Party

It seems we can't go a meeting without draping our charter. Another Golden Sheaf member has joined the Great Grange Above. Richard Chapman passed away on July 30. He will be sadly missed.

At our first meeting in August, temperatures drove us downstairs for the program; a trivia game that ended in a tie. However, our second meeting was held upstairs in cool comfort thanks to our wonderful, new air conditioning system. Jeff Barnes did all the research that resulted in this much-needed improvement to our hall. The men had the program that evening. Robert kept us laughing with his riddles. Charlie gave us a very interesting talk on the origin of the mystery novel and Jeff topped off the evening with his hilarious half and half skit.

Please note the change in our October programs. Installation has been changed from September to October. Our Halloween party has been changed from the fourth Friday to the fifth due to the fact that State Session conflicts with our scheduled meeting. Please come in costume. Prizes for costumes for all ages and games for the youngsters. And if these hurricanes that keep dropping trees on my road will just go out to sea, next time I'll tell you about sweet September.



Vernon Grange #52 recently donated craft kits for veterans residing at Phelps Village. The kits, which were funded partly by a grant from Thrivent, keep veterans active while maintaining a sense of community. Left to right: Cherie Robinson and Nancy Strong of Vernon Grange and Monique, Case Manager, Chrysalis Center.

Congratulations to the Winners



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

I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to send in an entry. The work you did was excellent! I wish all the 1st place winners the best of luck at the Northeast Needlework Contest.

Winners for this year's Needlework Contest are as follows:

Class B - Doily

- 1- Carol Nelson, Vernon #52
- 2- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52
- 3- Maryalyce Lee, Cheshire #23

Class C - Embroidery

- 1- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169

Class D - 3 Piece Baby Set

- 1- Lois Evankow, Lyme #147

Class E - Plastic Canvas

- 1- Joanne Cipriano,
Beacon Valley #103
- 2- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
- 3- Cindy Hupper, Cheshire #23

Class F - Counted Cross Stitch

- 1- Mariellen Baxter, Vernon #52
- 2- Sandy Peterson, Lyme #147

Class G - Adult Garment

- 1- Maryalyce Lee, Cheshire #23

Class I - Quilted Wall Hanging

- 1- Lois Evankow, Lyme #147
- 2- Karen Macdonald,
Greenfield Hill #133

Class J - Stuffed Toy

- 1- Maryalyce Lee, Cheshire #23
- 2- Cindy Hupper, Cheshire #23

Class K - Baby Afghan

- 1- Lois Evankow, Lyme #147
- 2- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
- 3- Ted Beebe, Coventry #75

Baking Contest:

Oatmeal Sunflower Cookies

- 1- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
- 2- Irene Percoski, Vernon #52

Birdhouse Contest

- 1- Terry Bischoff, Lyme #147

Decorate a Brick

- 1- Joanne Cipriano,
Beacon Valley #103

- 2- Karen Macdonald,
Greenfield Hill #133
 - 3- Lizette Hykes, Hillstown #87
- ### Sunflower theme-Needlework
- 1- Shirley Moore, Riverton #169
 - 2- Joanne Cipriano,
Beacon Valley #103
 - 3- Lois Evankow, Lyme #147
- ### Sunflower theme – other medium
- 1- Karen Macdonald, Greenfield

Hill #133

- 2- Janet Haller, Wallingford #33
- 3- Angelina DeDominicis,
Hillstown #87

Boats theme from 2019-2020

- 1- Lois Evankow, Lyme #147
- 2- Joanne Cipriano,
Beacon Valley #103

Best in Show

- Mariellen Baxter, Vernon #52



Celebrate Ag

Part of the 18 Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 crew serving pancakes at the Celebrate Ag event held at Woodstock Fairgrounds on Sept. 25. As soon as breakfast and the dishes were done, members switched gears to begin serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and french fries at lunchtime.

Session Committee Assignments

Agriculture/Conservation & Environment

- Chair:** Noel Miller
Vice Chair: Roy Harrington
Eastern CT Pomona #14
Coventry #75
Colchester #78
Lyme #147
Cawasa #34
Hemlock #182
Greenfield Hill #133
Granby #5
Senexet #40
Whigville #48

Good of the Order/Membership & Master's Address

- Chair:** Rob Buck
Vice Chair: Jaimie Cameron
Mountain Laurel Pomona #15
Ekonk Community #89
Groton Community #213
Wallingford #33
Ekonk Junior #101
Beacon Valley #103
Pachaug #96
Killingly #112
Stafford #1

Legislative/Insurance

- Chair:** Alma Graham
Vice Chair: Ruel Miller
Simsbury #197
Vernon #52
Harmony #92
Wolcott #173
Norfield #146
Cheshire #23
N. Stonington #138
Bridgewater #153
Higganum #124
Preston City #110

Credentials/Constitution & By-Laws

- Chair:** Don Lanoue
Vice Chair: Eloise Osuch
Nutmeg Pomona #16
Glastonbury #26
Cannon #152
Stonington #168
Hillstown #87
Taghannuck #100
Bethlehem #121
Riverton #169
Winchester #74
Hillstown Junior #87

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.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

As of the writing of this article the Degree Day planned by Mountain Laurel was days away on Oct 3. Special thanks go to Peter Keefe and Dawn Anstett (our new Secretary) for working the phones and keyboards to round up the members to fill all of the stations for FIVE degrees! It was a herculean effort but they got it done. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to all of the new members who joined us for the day. We heard from candidates from far and wide and hope they will all be present for the Sixth Degree at State Session later in the month.

As mentioned above, we have a new Secretary as Carol-Jean Swanson has decided to step down as Secretary. As State Secretary, I can tell you she did a FANTASTIC job. I'm sure she doesn't think so but she really did.

Thanks and appreciation also go to Brother Peter Keefe who has become the first Past Master of



Arline Cote, of Winchester Grange #74, receives her 75 year certificate from (l to r) Sandy Phillips (Deputy & Neice), Craig Leifert, Master of Winchester, Arline, and Earl Phillips (Deputy). Arline is sister of late State Masters Kingsley and Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher.

Mountain Laurel Pomona. Brother Rob Buck has been elected to take the chair.

Sister Lin Erickson of Cawasa Grange also becomes the first Past Lecturer of Mountain Laurel as she retires from that job. She was an excellent Lecturer but could should be any other kind?

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Oct. 12: Meeting

Oct. 26: Meeting

Winchester Grange was pleased to serve as host for the Degree Day organized by Mountain Laurel

Pomona which enabled several of our newest members to receive the degrees. We thank all Winchester members who contributed to the success of that day. As far as we know, the only degrees available in Connecticut were at this Degree Day. Good job done by all!

We congratulate Sister Arline Cote for receiving her 75 year certificate of continuous membership. She wasn't able to receive her award at our Picnic in August but family members Earl & Sandy Phillips and Craig Leifert visited her at home to make the presentation. We sure do miss seeing and hearing Arline on the piano bench at our meetings. Her playing of the *Connecticut March* was a staple at Winchester meetings for years. We are so fortunate to have a long line of splendid pianists in our Grange. So many Granges no longer have music and we are grateful to have the beautiful music provided by Sister Mary Lou Keefe.

For those of you who may not be aware, Arline (Beecher) Cote is the Sister of former State Masters Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher and Kingsley Beecher and former State Pianist Barbara English.



Taghannuck Grange's booth at the Cornwall Ag. Fair on Sept. 11.



HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Harmony Grange held its annual Agricultural Fair on August 28 at the Grange Hall. Although smaller than normal because of conditions, it was considered a success. There were antiques for sale upstairs, vegetables on exhibit and for judging, a tag sale and a 50/50 raffle. On the grounds there were a goat, a tractor and sweet corn was being cooked for sale.

Harmony Grange has several applications for new members. The Grange is trying to schedule in-person meetings. Attendance is becoming a problem with the stairs. Zoom meetings are not possible since only a few members have or can use computers.

Enjoy the fall weather and do visit areas in Connecticut to see the wonderful fall colors that our hardwood trees have at this time of year.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Greetings from the Greenfield Hill Grange. Hope you were clear of the path of Henri and Ida, and prayers go out to anyone who had damage. Mother Nature sure has a way of showing us her worst. Prayers that no more hurricanes torment us this season.

On August 28, 2021 The Greenfield Hill Grange held their 128th Agricultural Fair. It was a great success. We had some

Oxford hosts Chili Cook-Off



Oxford Grange #194 held its Seventh Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday 09/11/2021. The event was well received by locals as over fifty attended. There were 12 chili entries . Brian Capozzi, Glenn Belinsky, and Cody Dyckstra took top three places in the judging. Dan Golias and friends provided music for the diners. Chaplain Dorothy Peebles-Pelley and member Rev. Hank Rotzal held a moving 09/11 tribute service. The money raised will be used for Grange programs and hall upkeep. Thanks to all the volunteers and townspeople who came out to support us!

vendors, a delicious bake sale, a plant sale and even baby turkeys.

Did you know a turkey chick is called a poult? Best in show for produce, a huge pumpkin! We had an awesome raffle that yielded over 25 prizes. Thank you to all the donors! Thank you to the fair committee, the volunteers, Boy Scout Troop 90 and all who made this day such a success. A writer from the Fairfield

Patch came out and featured our fair. you can check out the article on line. Thanks Jarret for your great coverage. Save the date, our 2022 Agricultural fair will be held on August 27, 2022.

On September 18, we will be hosting a Summer-End Lobster Bake. Reservations only and socially - distanced seating.

Bring on Autumn - On September 25, 2021, we will have our Second Annual Fall Bake, Bulbs, Mums and Pumpkin Sale. The event last year was a great success, so we are at it again. The Chrysanthemums are native and are hardy. The bulbs are from Holland, but come from a local distributor. And the baked goods, All HOME MADE! YUM!

Our Grange has been collecting items for the Veteran's Hospital in West Haven. Nancy Olson just brought a trunk-full of donations to the Vets. Items included snacks, puzzles, puzzle books and more. Other items they are requesting are boxers, underwear, large and extra large ankle socks, tube socks and T shirts. If you love your freedom, thank a veteran. Thank you to all



Greenfield Hill Grange's Nancy Olson delivering a trunk - load of goodies to the West Haven Veterans Hospital. Donations from the Greenfield Hill Grange included puzzles, puzzle books, and snacks.

the donors, and Thank you Nancy for organizing and delivering.

On October 23, we will be hosting a Halloween Spooktakular. Prizes for the best costume -- the menu yet to be decided -- but bat wings and skeleton fingers are a possibility. It promises to be a hauntingly ghoulish time!

Drive - in Movie nights to return, soon! For information on any events, please call Jim 203.259.8023.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Kareen Kanaga

Oct. 12: Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm - Celebrate the Harvest

Oct. 24: Grange Water Station for Kiwanis 1/2 Marathon (Comm. Service)

Nov. 9: Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm - Thanksgiving Celebration

Dec. 14: Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm - Holiday Celebration

On Sunday, Sept. 12th The Norfield Grange held its annual Fair & Market. It was a gloriously sunny day in the upper 80's. As we were setting up the Fairgrounds we were delighted to have visitors (CT State Asst. Steward Roy Harrington accompanied by his wife Betty Jane of the State Youth Comm.) join in the fun before heading to their next Grange function, the Nutmeg Pomona meeting.

The Fair included Nine Contests - Artwork, Photography, Fruit, Vegetables, Eggs, Flowers, Knitting/Crocheting, Sewing/Needlework & Homemade "Hooch": Beer, Cider, Spirits & Wine, Two Food Trucks, Drinks Sold in 125th Anniversary Commemorative Cups, Raffle Items, Three Mystery Raffle Items, Eating Contests for Kids & Adults, Kids Games, Live Music and Vendors Selling Handmade/Homemade Items, Tag Sale Items & Local Businesses Selling Products & Services too and more. There are so many highlights from the successful day but way too many to name them all. At 3 pm in the midst of the Fair our First Selectwoman,



The Beacon Valley Grange Band performs at a recent Open Mic Night.

Samantha Nestor came to the fair to be part of a ceremony where she read a Proclamation Declaring the Day in Honor of and Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the organization of Norfield Grange #146 in Weston on Jan. 6th, 1896; as well as Ray Fitch, President of the Norfield Grange awarded two Golden Sheaf Pins and booklets to: George C. Guidera (64 year member) and Paul F. Keene (59 year member)

He also introduced/welcome five new members who joined during the Pandemic: Christina Seeber, Nicholas Nosel, Diane Benisch, Couper Duerr & Travis Worrell. Celebration Picture: (Left to Right): Catharine Kimberly, Nicholas Nosel, Christina Seeber, Roland Poirier, Lyn Kimberly, Travis Worrell, Ray Fitch, Samantha Nestor, Weston First Selectwoman, Couper Duerr, Paul Keene, Steve Porter & George Guidera). After the ceremony we launched into two of our favorite annual events the Corn-on-the-Cob Eating and Watermelon Eating Contests with two divisions one for adults & one for kids. Two pictures: Kids Watermelon Eating and the Kid's Corn-on-the-Cob Winner. We thank all of the volunteers who helped to make this fair a huge success and the fairgoers for turning out to support the Norfield Grange. Special thanks go to new member Christina Seeber, Pomona aided

by Catharine Kimberly, Flora in redoing our Grange sign which was rehung and proudly on display for the Fair! Please stay tuned for more info. in upcoming newsletters about our Annual Barn Dance & Chili Supper - Sat., Jan. 22nd, 2022.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Dec. 2: Potluck, 6:30 Meeting, 7:30

Jan. 6: Shall we have snow?

Feb. 3: Antiques Road Show

Due to flooding, we postponed our Sept. 2 meeting one week until Sept. 9. Despite a rainy evening, ten people came. We had a mini-installation. Our new Master, David Sanford, took the helm in grand style. Happy Birthday was sung to David. He was born as the airplanes were flying into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11th.

Our delegates are looking forward to State Session in October.

Our Charter was draped in loving memory of our Pomona, Marilyn Stitham.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Oct. 8: Fall into Connecticut

Oct. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Nov. 12: Thanksgiving and Thanks to the Vets

Nov. 26: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



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WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



No answers were received for the September Window Picture.



Crescent Mummy Dogs

Halloween will be here before we know it. Pillsbury has a fun recipe for Crescent Mummy Dogs that will be sure to delight Halloween enthusiasts. These are so easy even the little ghosts and goblins can lend a hand making these treats!

YIELD: 10 Servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can (8 oz) refrigerated Pillsbury™ Original Crescent Rolls (8 Count) or 1 can (8 oz) refrigerated Pillsbury™ Original Crescent Dough Sheet
- 2 1/2 slices American cheese, quartered (2.5 oz)

- 10 Oscar Mayer™ beef hot dogs
- Cooking spray
- Mustard or ketchup, if desired

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat oven to 375°F. If using crescent rolls: Unroll dough; separate at perforations, creating 4 rectangles. Press perforations to seal. If using dough sheet: Unroll dough; cut into 4 rectangles. With knife or kitchen scissors, cut each rectangle lengthwise into 10 pieces, making a total of 40 pieces of dough. Slice cheese slices into quarters (1/2 slice cheese, cut in half).

Wrap 4 pieces of dough around each hot dog and 1/4 slice of cheese to look like “bandages,” stretching dough slightly to completely cover hot dog. About 1/2 inch from one end of each hot dog, separate “bandages” so hot dog shows through for “face.” On ungreased large cookie sheet, place wrapped hot dogs (cheese side down); spray dough lightly with cooking spray.

Bake 13 to 17 minutes or until dough is light golden brown and hot dogs are hot. With mustard, draw features on “face.”

TIP: Try a mini version with cocktail sausages.

SOURCE: <https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/crescent-mummy-dogs/d52a57d7-ab8a-4a1c-8dae-f9f90d03b912>



presented by
The Cosmic Cat
 Sunday, October 24th, 11am-5pm
 at The Grange, 628 Route 169, Woodstock, CT

Halloween PSYCHIC FAIR

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THE KILLINGLY GRANGE

WILL HOST ITS
**BIG PUMPKIN
 CABARET**
ON SAT., OCT. 23RD



Interested farmers, artisans, artists and crafters are invited to take part in an Open Market.

The fee for an outside space is \$20.00 (\$15.00 if payment is made by September 1st).

- ♪ **Live music** will be provided by The Usual Suspects, and seasonal refreshments will be available.
- For the young at heart, **a scarecrow contest** will be held. (Prizes will be awarded).
- **A theme basket raffle** will also take place.

Call John or Penny 860 - 412 - 9811 for more details.

VIRTUAL SOCIAL hour

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering. A brief program will be presented. Stop by and say Hello!



You're Invited to Connect!

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE


MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST:
 "Dog Days of Summer"
 CANCELLED


SEPTEMBER:
 No Social Hour in September

OCTOBER:
 "A Ghostly Affair"
 Thursday, October 28
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM


NOVEMBER:
 "Talkin' Turkey"
 Thursday, November 18
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

DECEMBER:
 Virtual Christmas Party
 Thursday, December 16
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

JANUARY 2022:
 CT State Grange History Book Project Update
 Thursday
 January 20, 2022
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



take survey!



Pie & Coffee talks*

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- THURS, SEPT. 30 - MANURE & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL FARMS
- WED, OCT. 13 - FOREST MANAGEMENT
- WED, OCT. 27 - GRAZING ANIMALS 101
- TUES, NOV. 16 - SOIL HEALTH FOR SMALL FARMS

All presentations 6:30 - 7:45 pm online zoom AND limited in-person with refreshments at Woodstock Senexet Grange following CDC & state COVID-19 guidance at time of talk.

*Sponsored by Woodstock Agricultural Commission, Senexet Grange #40 and Eastern CT Conservation District



The holidays are soon upon us

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director, CT State Grange

Starting with Halloween and continuing through the New Year, the holiday season is right around the corner. Many Granges host special events during this time - from Bazaars to Festivals to Christmas Parties and more. It is also the time when Granges tend to begin new community service projects - such as having a drive for non-perishable food items, collecting toys for underprivileged children, making favors for nursing homes, hosting a carol sing for the elderly, and more. This is the perfect time for Granges to amp up their marketing and promotions, and reap the benefits the holidays provide.

What does your Grange want to accomplish during the holidays? Once you answer the question then plan a holiday themed event or activity to achieve your goals. Remember to be sure that what you are planning is relevant to your community, and makes people feel good about what you are trying to

achieve.

Once your Grange event or activity is planned, the next step is getting the word out. Utilize the resources that are available at little or no charge — mass emails to members, press releases, posters, a sign in front of the hall/meeting location, social media such as Facebook and Twitter, and old-fashioned word-of-mouth.

Start early, and make your promotions timely to the event. Use

visuals such as photos and videos in your marketing, and make your call-to-action the centerpiece of your promotions. Folks receive a lot of ads and promotional pieces during the holidays, so make sure yours stands out from the crowd. Make it personal, engaging and easy for folks to participate.

The holidays are the most memorable season of the year. Granges should be taking advantage of these opportunities.

Need help? The Public Relations Committee is ready to lend a hand. All we ask is that you give us plenty of advance notice to ensure we can fulfill your needs. information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org for more information.



Weston First Selectwoman, Samantha Nestor read a Proclamation at the Norfield Grange Fair declaring the day in honor of and commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the organization of Norfield Grange #146 in Weston on Jan. 6th, 1896.

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(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1,547	1,547
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(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	1,707	1,707
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	343	343
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	2,050	2,050
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Publication of this statement required by USPS regulations.

Discerning God's Will



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

I have on two prior occasions written about knowing what rules God wants us to follow, using as a yardstick the two great commandments "Love the Lord with all your heart" and "Love your neighbor as yourself. So far, what I have given you is the easy part. What about the situations where we have choices to make and both the choices (or all the choices) seem to fit within the guidelines? I am setting aside for now those situations where no matter what we do it is wrong. That is a problem for which I do not have a ready answer, and if I did have an answer the chances are that it would be wrong also. Books have been written on this subject, and they disagree with each other.

I think also we can ignore those times when we are choosing whether to take the apple pie or the blueberry pie. No, what I want to look are those times when we have a choice and wonder if God would prefer us to choose a particular path. The mere fact that we wonder what God would prefer us to do is enough reason for us to give the matter some thought. There is a formal process for this called "spiritual discernment". It helps us to decide what God is calling us to do, or perhaps in many cases, what



God is calling us to "be". Although it is possible to do "self-discernment", it is often better to do this with the help of a discernment counselor, a discernment group, or even a discernment committee.

Discernment is an intentional, prayerful process where we seek God's direction to guide us in our next steps. If you have found

yourself wondering about how God might be inviting you to use your talents and gifts to make a difference in the world, you might find a period of discernment a helpful practice.

But do not feel left out if God is not calling you to a special mission. Remember that God needs good and faithful followers just as much as He needs good and faithful leaders. Perhaps God is satisfied that you are already fulfilling your place in His plan.

In Memoriam

Richard Chapman, G.S.
North Stonington
Grange #138

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