



Eagle Grange #1

Route 15 & East Blind Road, Montgomery, PA 17752

February 2023



Join Us for FFA Blue Jacket Night – February 7th



Eagle Grange has been fortunate to develop an on-going relationship with the local Montgomery High School FFA Chapter. You may recall this enthusiastic group of students under the leadership of advisor Chris Ulrich has assisted the Grange with a school staff appreciation project last March (see left) and this past December's *Jingle Bell Jamboree* (pictures in our last newsletter). What you may not know is that the National Grange had a big part in the creation of legislation many years ago that made vocational education programs like FFA a reality,

Receiving and wearing the distinctive navy blue FFA jacket marks a student's initiation in this nationwide group which go far beyond agriculture education to also teach leadership, citizenship and community service. This will be the second year that Eagle Grange has sponsored three jackets for local students. The jackets were awarded to them and several hundred other new FFA members at the PA Farm Show in January.

At Eagle's meeting February 7th we will be hosting a group of Montgomery FFA students to present Blue Jacket scholarships. A demonstration of the opening exercises for an FFA meeting will be given and you'll note many similarities to the opening of a Grange meeting. A short video will be shared to show how the Grange and FFA cooperate in a nearby county to organize and carry out a project to help persons in need by packing 50,000 meal kits for their local food banks.



Please join us for this evening where the best of today's youth will be on full display. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Grange Hall (*in case of a snow cancellation, the meeting will be held the following Tuesday, February 14th*). Refreshments will be served following the program; the hosts for the evening will be Bernie & Beth Downey and Ruth Lundy.

Another Active, Busy Year Planned

Although the turn-out was small on a rainy, foggy January evening and some regulars were absent due to illness, an enthusiastic group of Eagle Grange members and friends met to discuss and plan the 2023 calendar of events.

Since those initial discussions, much work has been going on behind the scenes to check into suggestions and actually get things finalized. Here's where the schedule stands now but there will certainly be more changes and additions as details are worked out; watch future newsletters for updates.

Monthly Meetings/Activities/Outings

Date	Type of Event	Hosts
2/7/2023	Regular meeting; FFA Blue Jacket Night	Bernie & Beth Downey; Ruth Lundy
3/7/2023	Irish potluck dinner/program	Phil Vonada
4/4/2023	Regular meeting; Road Safety program by PA Motor Truck Association	Irvin & Janet Reynolds
5/2/2023	Outing; Tour of PA College of Technology, Schneebeli Earth Science Center	Katy Moser; Karen Schooley
6/6/2023	Regular meeting; Rural Mental Health program	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
7/11/2023	Outing; Picnic (location to be confirmed); Therapy Dogs program <i>suggested</i>	Tom & Daisy Styer
8/1/2023	Regular meeting; program to be determined	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
9/5/2023	Regular meeting; program to be determined	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
10/3/2023	County Office Candidates' Night Forum	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
11/7/2023	Regular meeting; suggested "Wreaths Across America" program	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
12/5/2023	Holiday dinner; Community Citizen Award presentation	Doug Bonsall; Jenn Nauss

Other program suggestions/possibilities:

- **Commit to continued well-run meetings and planned educational programs**
- "Self-Protection - How to Survive a Shooting"
- Senator Yaw
- Oliver's Backpacks

Property Improvements

- Finish kitchen upgrades – new countertops & backsplash, new sinks & faucets; exhaust hood functionality and related electrical work
- Install stone along edges of parking lot to level the grade between the new paving and the lawn
- Investigate increased oven capacity and better heating/cooling for kitchen
- Complete permanent sign installation/lighting

Community Service Projects

- **FFA Blue Jacket scholarships** for Montgomery High School – 2/7/2023
- **Fleece blanket making** for Williamsport YWCA homeless outreach – 2/10-11/2023
- Third annual **“Share the Love” free community dinner** – 2/11/2023
- **Road Rally** – 4/22/2023
- **Meet the Candidates Night** – 10/3/2023
- Continue to promote agriculture with exhibits at local fairs
- Support worthy causes with financial donations
- Develop and sponsor more family-friendly events (like the holiday *Jingle Bell Jamboree*)

Fund Raising Projects – 2023 Take-Out Dinners

3/25/2023 –Pork w/sauerkraut or stuffing/gravy

5/6/2023 – Roast Beef

6/17/2023 – Baked Ham

7/29/2023 – Pulled Pork

9/23/2023 – Stuffed Chicken Breast

11/4/2023 – Roast Turkey & trimmings

Finally, a quick survey yielded the following results:

(the numbers vary because not all questions were answered on some forms)

Question	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
1. I know all there is to know about the Grange.			6
2. I think it is important to remember that our Grange is part of the Pomona, State and National Granges.	7	1	
3. I would like to learn more about the Grange and what it does at its various levels.	4		1
4. I look forward to Eagle Grange meetings.	6	1	
5. I think the fellowship at Grange activities is important.	7	1	
6. I like a mix of different types of Grange meetings – some formal, some informal, some special outings	7		
7. I believe that serving the community should be the primary focus of Eagle Grange.	7	1	
8. I'd like to see our Grange do more to serve the community.	3	2	1
9. I think that holding about 6 take-out dinners as fund raisers annually is the right number.	8		
10. We should continue to improve our facilities at Eagle Grange.	8		
11. The Grange must change if it is to survive in the future.	6	1	
12. I am open to change and trying new things at Eagle Grange.	7	1	
13. I am willing to take an active part in Grange activities.	7		1

CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

GRANGE MEMBERSHIP MAY CAUSE PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND COMMUNITY PRIDE



Coming Events

January 21 – Gather at Grange Hall at 9:30 a.m.to:

- *Take down holiday decorations*
- *Select material for countertops & backsplash*

January 21 – Pomona #28 @ California Grange; potluck lunch at noon followed by meeting/program

February 7 – Grange meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Program – **FFA Blue Jacket scholarship presentation**
Video of FFA-Grange cooperation and demonstration of FFA opening ceremony

- *Hosts – Bernie & Beth Downey; Ruth Lundy*

February 10– Work day for take-out dinner & blanket making - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch

February 11 – “Share the Love” Lasagna Take-Out Dinner; details on Page 5. Help needed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch.

March 7 – Irish Potluck Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Everyone bring an Irish dish; if you need ideas, some simple recipes will be distributed at the 2/7/2023 meeting

Program – **Irish Journey**

- *Host – Phil Vonada*

March 24– Work day for take-out dinner - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch

March 25 – Roast Pork Take-Out Dinner with homemade sauerkraut or stuffing/gravy. Help needed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch.

Don't Forget

2023 Grange dues are now payable in person at the next meeting or by sending to:

Secretary Jenn Nauss, 10 West Schoolside Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Take Special Note

In Memoriam – Once more our fraternal circle has been broken with the passing of our beloved **Brother Fred Murray** on 12/31/2022. Fred was a faithful member since 1960 and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain the Grange Hall and supported everything happening at Eagle Grange. His presence will be sorely missed. He served in many offices including as president in 1966, 1978-79 and 2005-2010. At the time of his death he was a member of the Executive Committee.

Officer Changes – At the January meeting a letter of resignation due to health issues was accepted with much regret from treasurer Karen Williamson. The following new officers were then elected:

- **Treasurer – Ruth Lundy**
- **Pomona** (replacing Ruth) – **Janet Reynolds**
(this officer coordinates hosts for monthly meetings)
- **Ex. Committee** (filling vacancy) – **Doug Bonsall**

Property Improvements

- A sump pump is being installed in the basement by Frey Plumbing to correct a water problem that has persisted for many years. This project was a gift underwritten by Doug Bonsall & Craig Staller.
- A contract has been awarded to Covenant Kitchens & Bath to install new laminate countertops and backsplash in the kitchen before the installation of new sinks & faucets (already purchased & waiting). The secretary and treasurer have been authorized to withdraw funds from Eagle's custodial fund with the State Grange if necessary to cover the costs.
- Laminate samples will be reviewed and a selection made on 1/21/2023 during the taking down of holiday decorations starting at 9:30 a.m. **Everyone with an interest in helping to select the color of the new counterops and backsplash is invited to come.**

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for providing this project with a \$250 Action Team “seed money” grant to buy food supplies and blanket making materials.

"Share the Love" Take-Out Dinner

Sat., Feb. 11, 2023

Snow Date – Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023

A gift from Eagle Grange #1 to the community

Homemade lasagna, garlic bread, mixed green salad with homemade celery seed dressing, applesauce, red velvet cake

No charge for this meal; if you wish to “pay the love forward”, donations will be accepted to support the Grange’s services to the community



Advance reservations suggested; a limited number of additional meals may be available

Contact Daisy Styer @ 570-546-5861

Pick-up 2-4 p.m. @ Eagle Grange Hall

Rt. 15 & East Blind Rd., Montgomery, PA

Next Take-Out Dinner

Pork Loin & Homemade Sauerkraut – March 25, 2023

Eagle Grange #1

c/o Douglas A. Bonsall
300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765
Dauphin, PA 17018-0765



February 2023
Newsletter

A New Community Service Project



Eagle Grange will provide some warmth to the Williamsport YWCA homeless outreach program with handmade fleece blankets being made on Feb. 10-11. No sewing is involved; just a few simple cuts and tying of knots. Bring a pair of sharp scissors if possible. Our friend Linda Byers from Perry Valley Grange will be the leader for this activity; above Doug Bonsall and Craig Staller help with a similar blanket project.