



Pennsylvania Grange News

January/February 2024



On the cover:
The Espenshade Farm
in Lancaster County.



Cultivating Connections: PA Veteran Farming Network



Subordinate Spotlight: Girard #788



36

National Session Highlights

Pennsylvania Grange News
26 CJEMS Ln.
Mifflintown, PA 17059
717-737-8855
www.pagrange.org

Publisher
Matthew Espenshade
Pennsylvania State Grange Master
president@pagrange.org

Managing Editor
Brittany Covey

Copy Editor
Jane Birk

2024 Deadlines
March/April 2024 (Issue 2)
January 25, 2024

May/June 2024 (Issue 3)
March 25, 2024

July/August 2024 (Issue 4)
May 25, 2024

September/October (Issue 5)
July 25, 2024

**Follow the
Pennsylvania State Grange**
Twitter - @PAGrangePR
Facebook - PaStateGrange

A portion of members' dues
are paid as a subscription.

Contents

4	The Master's Station
6	Membership News
8	Lecturer's Scroll
12	History Committee
13	Chaplain's Message
14	Family Activities
15	Youth & Young Adults
16	Deaf & Community Service
17	Public Relations
18	The Junior Granger
19	Secretary's Corner
20	Government Matters

Advertisement Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in the advertisements of this issue are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views and opinions of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

Title: Pennsylvania Grange News
Issue: January/February 2024
Statement of Frequency: Bi-monthly
Authorized organization's name & address:
Pennsylvania State Grange
26 CJEMS Ln.
Mifflintown, PA 17059



State Session Highlights & Contest Winners

22	Cultivating Connections
24	State Session Highlights
33	Granger of the Year
36	National Grange Highlights
40	Shoveling & Snow Blowing Safety
41	Farm Show Preview
42	Granges In Action
44	Subordinate Spotlight
46	New Member/Memorial
47	Calendar of Events



The Master's Station

Matthew Espenshade, Pennsylvania State Grange Master
mespenshade@pagrange.org

Our Next 150 Years Starts Now...

As I begin this column, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the legacy that the Pennsylvania State Grange has built over the past 150 years. Since its organization in 1873, the State Grange and its subordinates have been a beacon of rural advocacy and community empowerment. Looking back at our rich history, we see the dedication and resilience of generations of Grange members who worked tirelessly to uphold our values and promote the well-being of rural communities.

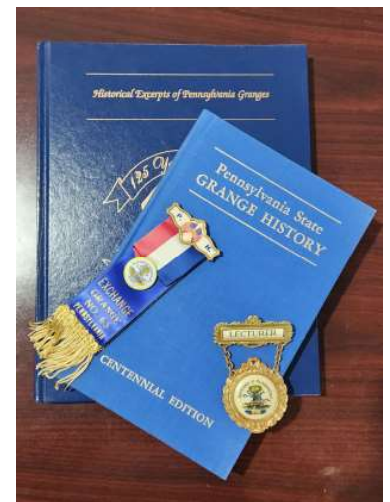
2023 was a year of celebration, from the modest Grange halls of Bradford County to the marble staircases of the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg. Our State Grange History Committee, led by chairman Doug Bonsall, spent more than two years planning and developing ways for all members to feel part of the special commemoration. We deeply appreciate the countless hours the committee dedicated to this task.

Among their initiatives was encouraging 150 Acts of Service. This idea brought the anniversary into our local Granges, increasing outreach into the community which they serve. Each subordinate was challenged to complete one NEW community service project and submit a report which was shared on our Facebook page. While the goal was 150, by September 2023, more than 200 acts of service were highlighted. Submissions included hosting community forums, food pantry donations, goodie bags for first-responders, and Christmas cards for soldiers. The impact of these new endeavors will have a lasting effect on our Granges and people touched by their generosity.

Though the compilation of these acts of service has come to an end, it does not mean they no longer have merit. I hope that the extensive list of activities encourages other local Granges to try a new outreach program. Over time, I have learned that a true sense of self-worth does not come from personal accolades and accomplishments, but rather by helping those in challenging situations. Through the Grange, we have an outlet for our ability to serve; and the more we give, the more we gain.

During our sesquicentennial anniversary, it is not only been a time for reflection but also an opportunity to chart the course for the next 150 years.

The world around us is changing rapidly, presenting both challenges and opportunities. In the face of these changes, the Pennsylvania State Grange must strive to remain relevant and effective. Our founders were visionaries who understood the importance of keeping rural communities relevant and adapting to the needs and opportunities of the time. We must carry that spirit forward into the future.



One key aspect of our future lies in embracing technology. The digital age has transformed the way we communicate, connect, and organize. As Grange members, we must harness the power of technology to enhance our outreach, streamline our operations, and engage with a new generation of members. Whether it's through online platforms, social media, or other innovative tools, we must utilize technology to strengthen our bonds and amplify our voice.

If you have not done so, I encourage you to share your email address with our Public Relations Director Bernie Comfort. Doing so will add your name to our bi-weekly e-newsletter, which offers the latest news and social highlights of the Grange on the state and local level. Local subordinates are strongly encouraged to submit their activities which are having a positive impact on their communities.

As a hallmark of our Fraternity, our commitment to advocacy and community service remains unwavering. The challenges faced by rural communities today may differ from those of the past, but our core principles of unity, education, and cooperation are timeless. Let us continue to champion policies that support agriculture, our farmers, rural development, and the well-being of our fellow citizens.

Education has always been at the heart of the Grange, and as we look to the future, we must invest in the education and development of our members. This includes providing resources and training to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture, as well as fostering leadership skills that will empower the next generation of community leaders to carry the torch forward. I encourage our subordinate Lecturers to make a meaningful and enlightening literary program a part of every Grange meeting.

As we embark on the journey of the next 150 years, let us do so with a sense of purpose, unity, and a commitment to the values that have sustained us through the decades. The Pennsylvania State Grange is not just an organization; it is a living testament to the strength of community and the power of collective action.

Indeed, we face challenges, both today and in years to come. We have seen decreases in membership, and aging Grange halls are financially difficult to maintain. However, we are also seeing new growth, as evident by the reorganization of Howard Grange #297, and the newly chartered Grassroots Grange #2112 of Indiana County. The National Grange has seen increased net membership for two consecutive years! We have new opportunities for Grange membership, as society discovers that while being electronically connected to everywhere and everyone, they've never felt more alone. Personal interactions and connections within the Grange are the greatest gift we can share with one another. The Pennsylvania State Grange continues to be where people of all walks of life, in all stages of life, can come together to work for the betterment of their rural communities... and beyond.

Together, let us write the next chapter of our history—one that builds on our past, embraces the present, and charts a course for a vibrant and sustainable future. I am confident that, with the dedication and passion of our members, the Pennsylvania State Grange will continue to thrive for generations to come.

Fraternally,
Master Matt



Membership News

Norman Houser, Membership Director
nhouser@pagrange.org

A Season of Change

Outside, a cold wind is blowing as I sit enjoying a cup of hot chocolate. Having passed through a season of thanksgiving, a season of giving, and a season of Farm Show, it is time to look forward to what the new year brings – a Season of Change.

I know I, like many of you, have made my New Year's resolutions. The new year holds the promise of new hope and growth; it promises an opportunity to change. The sad part about New Year's resolutions is they are often forgotten about within a couple days. Not months. Not weeks. Most resolutions are forgotten within a day or two of being made.

I know I'm as guilty as everyone else. The resolutions I've made are often forgotten by January 3 as I fall back into the familiar routines and ways that "I've always done it."



As 2024 dawns upon us, I want to challenge you and your Granges to make your New Year's resolutions and follow through with them. In developing our goals for 2024, let's look at some steps to help us grow.

1) Define and plan your goal. What is your plan to introduce potential members to the Grange?

Is it a meal? It is a sale? It is a community night? Is it a booth at a fair?

How are you going to get from point A to Point B? Brainstorm your ideas and outline the steps needed to be taken. This helps to keep us on task and prevents distractions from leading us astray.

Do you have all the supplies you need to make your event successful? Contact the state office for brochures and other information. If you plan ahead, then the materials you need and available on hand the day of your membership event.

2) Start with Small Steps. We would all like to see our Grange increase membership greatly overnight. If instantaneous growth is the immediate goal, then you're going to be frustrated and feel as if your plan for growth is failing.

In talking with the Granges that are showing growth, the common theme is "one member at a time." Small steps. They're not looking for massive overnight growth. Instead, they are working within their means to show their Grange in action within their communities. And with each small step they're seeing growth and are seeing success in the long run.

3) Avoid Repeating Past Failures. I'm big on evaluating what has and has not worked in the past and I encourage you to evaluate what programs you've done in the past. Ask yourself these questions: What worked? What didn't work? What pitfalls did you encounter? What distractions did you face? What can be changed to make the past failures a success now?

Examining what has and has not worked in the past allows you to grow by avoiding the same mistakes.



4) It is OK to Change. One of the things all organizations face is: "That's not how we did it years ago" or more commonly stated: "That's not how my grandmother did it." While traditions are important, it is also important to realize that it is ok to change how things are done. If you want to drive possible members away, just take their new ideas and tell them, "We can't do it that way."

Do not limit yourselves by staying within the walls of the building. Many of you have stepped beyond those walls, but it is easy to retreat into the familiar, especially when our goals either feel out of reach or seem to be failing.

5) It is OK to ask for Help. Society has taught us that we don't need to ask for help. And then we get frustrated when things fall apart because we tried to do it by ourselves.

We are here to help you, to suggest ideas, to share connections with other Granges and organizations. Reach out and ask state officers for ideas and thoughts. Don't be afraid to ask other Granges about their events. What have they done that works? What have they done that didn't work? You are not alone in this process and we are here for you.

I again encourage you to set your goals for 2024. We want to see you reach those goals, so don't give up, but instead reach out. We are just a phone call or email away.

Norman Houser, Membership Director



5 Minutes with... Ken Merritt

PA State Grange Gatekeeper

What Grange do you belong to?

*I belong to Valley Grange #1360
in Lewisberry, PA.*

How long have you been in the Grange?

Since 1981, that makes it 42 years.

What is your favorite Grange memory?

*The day of October 21,
2018 at approximately
11:48 a.m., at the
Pennsylvania State
Grange Convention, in
Cranberry Township,
Butler County at the*



*Public Speaking Contest, the day I proposed to
Joyce A. Snyder, and she said, YES! As some
asked what if she said no--well, I wouldn't be
writing this today for the PGN edition.*

**If you could have any superpower,
what would it be?**

*The superpower I would love to have would be
able to spread World Peace and end the fighting.*

Name 1 thing on your bucket list.

*The one item on my bucket list would be to visit
my nephew Jeremy and his wife Rosalie, with all
of my family tagging along to the Philippines.*

What is your favorite dessert?

*My favorite dessert would have to be the fruit
cocktail cookies, and if not available, some of
my mother's home made fruit cake.*



The Lecturer's Scroll

Jenn Nauss, Pennsylvania State Grange Lecturer
jnauss89@gmail.com

Greetings from South Central PA!

I hope that you and your families had a wonderful holiday season and are now preparing for a great new year. 2024 will be a busy year for State Grange activities, some of which are described here. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

State Session Recap

The State Session, which was held in October, was a fitting celebration of the State Grange's 150th Anniversary. Many thanks to the Lecturers, Granges, and Grange members who participated in the Lecturers' 2023 contests and programs. A summary of contest winners is included in this issue of the PGN. A new Guide to Contests and Programs for 2024-2025 is now available on the State Grange website. Please review the guide to view changes to contests and programs for the coming two years.

Quilts of Valor Presentation

We were honored to present Quilts of Valor to four Grange members at this year's State Grange session. Two veterans – Francis Sharon of Russellville Grange #91, Chester County, and Ruth Frankfort of Marion Grange #1853, Berks County – were presented their Quilts of Valor at the State Session. Two other Quilts of Valor were presented to William Bush of Stony Point Grange #1694, Mercer County, and Mary Sattazahn of Marion Grange #1853, Berks County, who were unable to attend the session. Sadly, Mary passed away at the end of October; we are thankful she was able to receive this honor before her passing; we send our condolences to her family. Many thanks to Jo Garvin from Quilts of Valor Foundation

for attending to present the quilts and our sincerest gratitude to Francis, Ruth, William, and Mary for their service and devotion to our country.



Jo Garvin of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, left, presented Quilts of Valor to Francis Sharon of Russellville Grange #91, Chester County, center, and Ruth Frankfort of Marion Grange #1853, Berks County.

William Bush of Stony Point Grange #1694, Mercer County, was presented with his Quilt of Valor after the session.



Mary Sattazahn of Marion Grange #1853, Berks County, was presented with her Quilt of Valor after the session.

Upcoming Events

State Grange Leadership Conferences

The PA State Grange will be holding two statewide leadership conferences this winter – on February 24 at Scrubgrass Grange, Venango County, and on March 9 at Eagle Grange, Lycoming County. These will be an opportunity for Grange leaders and members to gain meaningful training and to meet with the State Grange officers and directors, as well as Grangers from around the state. Registration is due three weeks before each

conference. The schedule and registration are included in this issue of the PGN. We hope to see many of you there.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Jenn Nauss



**Anniversary Pageant /
Documentary Showings**

150TH
1873-2023
Pennsylvania State Grange
Anniversary

We have received requests to share the Anniversary Documentary (as shown at the State Grange Session). Sharing the documentary online could pose copyright concerns, as not all of the pictures used are the property of the PA State Grange.

We are considering the possibility of coordinating regional or Pomona showings of the documentary if there is enough interest. If your Community or Pomona Grange is interested in showing the documentary video, please contact Jenn Nauss at jnauss89@gmail.com or (717) 512-1261 by February 15th.

SAVE THE DATE!

**PA State Grange
Family Festival**

July 18-21, 2024

Centre County Grange Fairgrounds

**JOIN THE TEAM!
GO FOR THE GOLD!**



Look for more information this winter!

Pennsylvania State Grange 2024 Regional Leadership Conferences

Tentative Schedule (Subject to change)

Each Conference runs from 10:00 am - 3:15 pm

February 24, 2024 - Scrubgrass Grange Hall, Venango County
5104 Emlenton-Clintonville Rd., Emlenton, PA

March 9, 2024 - Eagle Grange Hall, Lycoming County
32 East Blind Rd., Montgomery, PA

9:30 - 10:00	Registration	
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome & Announcements	
10:15 - 10:45	Youth & Young Adults	<i>Co-directors of the State Grange Youth & Young Adult Department - Lindsay Schroeder and Jen Danko - will discuss youth programming and how to involve the youth in your Granges.</i>
10:50 - 11:20	Legislative	<i>Carrie Nace, State Grange Legislative Consultant, will discuss legislative updates and how your Grange can be more involved in the legislative process.</i>
11:25 - 11:55	Don't Reinvent the Wheel!	<i>Jenn Nauss, State Grange Lecturer/Program Director, will review free resources available through the Grange and in your communities and discuss how to use them to effectively and efficiently plan programs for your Grange.</i>
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch - <i>State Grange Membership Director, Norman Houser, will be present at the Scrubgrass Grange conference to discuss Grange membership.</i>	
12:45 - 1:15	Breakout Session	<i>Join Matt Espenshade, State Grange President, who will present a leadership workshop, or Debbie Campbell, State Grange Secretary, who will discuss important roles and responsibilities of the Secretary and how to complete quarterly reports and other paperwork.</i>
1:20 - 1:50	We Have All These Records; Now What?	<i>History Committee Chair, Doug Bonsall, will discuss how to safekeep and preserve your Grange's records.</i>
1:55 - 2:25	Community Service Project	<i>Tina Keen, State Grange Deaf & Community Service Chair, will lead the group in the completion of a service project.</i>
2:30 - 3:00	Junior Grange	<i>Philip Vonada, PAJG Director, will be joined by Junior Ambassadors Gayle Reyburn and Braden Thomson to talk about this year's Junior Grange contests and how you can incorporate the ideas and themes into your meetings. We encourage everyone to be a Junior-at-Heart! Phil will also discuss properly reporting your Junior members to the State Grange and new incentives for Junior programming.</i>
3:00 - 3:15	Closing & Evaluations	

Pennsylvania State Grange 2024 Regional Leadership Conferences

The Pennsylvania State Grange will be hosting two regional leadership conferences in February and March 2024, designed to provide meaningful and helpful training to local Grange leaders and members. Two conferences will be held - one in the central-eastern part of the state and one in the western part of the state. Any Grange member or leader is welcome and encouraged to attend! Attendance at each conference is NOT limited to the host region - **anyone can attend either of the conferences, regardless of which region.**

Lunch will be provided at each conference by the host Grange. There is a **registration cost of \$15**, which will cover the cost of lunch and all provided materials. **Registration is due 3 weeks prior to the conference.** The schedule of conferences is below:

Each Conference runs from 10:00 am - 3:15 pm

February 24, 2024 - Scrubgrass Grange Hall, Venango County
5104 Emlenton-Clintonville Rd., Emlenton, PA - **Register by February 3rd**

March 9, 2024 - Eagle Grange Hall, Lycoming County
32 East Blind Rd., Montgomery, PA - **Register by February 17th**

Please complete the bottom portion of this page and mail along with payment to:

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

*Make checks payable to: **Pennsylvania State Grange***

Conference attending (check one):

Scrubgrass - Feb. 24 (Register by Feb. 3)

Eagle - March 9 (Register by Feb. 17)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Grange Name/Number: _____

County: _____

Office(s) Held: _____

Mail with \$15 payment to: **Jenn Nauss, 10 West Schoolside Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Checks payable to: **Pennsylvania State Grange**



History Committee

Doug Bonsall, History Committee Chair
douglas.b@verizon.net
717-921-1957 or 717-460-0723

Special Offer – Hurry to get some of the remaining 150th anniversary commemorative items while they are still available – take advantage of the special sale price while supplies last. See details on flyer.

Reminder – Grange officer regalia (Junior, Subordinate & Pomona), song books, manuals and implements from closed Granges, all in reasonably good condition, are available free of charge to any active Grange that can use them. Please contact the History Committee or the State Office to inquire if your Grange is in need of such items.

Records Preservation – Each Grange should make it a priority to preserve its historical records. These records include not only official minutes from meetings but also reports/scrapbooks containing pictures and extensive narrative that often provide an even more complete history of your Grange’s activities.

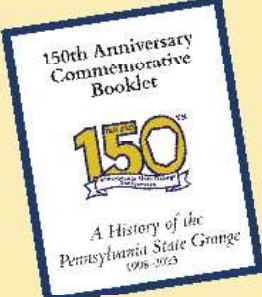
At the 2024 Regional Leadership Conferences (February 24th at Scrubgrass Grange, Venango County and March 9th at Eagle Grange, Lycoming County), the History Committee’s presentation will look at a number of ways to preserve your records. We’ll consider everything from a simple collection of materials into one protected place to locked storage in a safe or bank vault to microfilming/digitizing for permanent electronic preservation.

Doug Bonsall, Chair
PA State Grange
History Committee



Don't miss your chance...

to own a lasting memento of the
PA State Grange 150th Anniversary!



150th Anniversary
Commemorative
Booklet

150TH

A History of the
Pennsylvania State Grange
1873-2023

Booklets - \$10 each

**Anniversary
Historical Booklets
and Ornaments
for Sale -
perfect gifts for
special occasions!**

**while supplies last*



Ornaments - \$10 each
Set of 4 Ornaments - \$35

Special Anniversary Sale!
4 Ornaments + 1 Booklet - \$40

Prices above do *not* include shipping. Shipping will be waived for anyone who arranges pick-up of their order, including from the State Grange office, at the PA Farm Show, and at the Winter 2024 Regional Leadership Conferences. If pick-up is unable to be arranged, shipping costs will be calculated. Buyers will be notified regarding the cost of shipping once calculated and payment will be due before items are shipped. Contact one of the below committee members to place your order!

For State Grange Office Pick-Up and Shipping, contact:

- **Debbie Campbell** - (717) 737-8855 / secretaryepagrange.org

To Coordinate Pick-Up, contact:

- **Central PA** - Doug Bonsall - (717) 921-1957 / douglas.beverizon.net
- **Central PA / Regional Conferences** - Jenn Nauss - (717) 512-1261 / jnauss89@gmail.com
- **Eastern PA** - Karen Mohn - (610) 589-2473 / kmohn260@gmail.com
- **Western PA** - Susan Tau - (814) 763-4831 / setau919@windstream.net



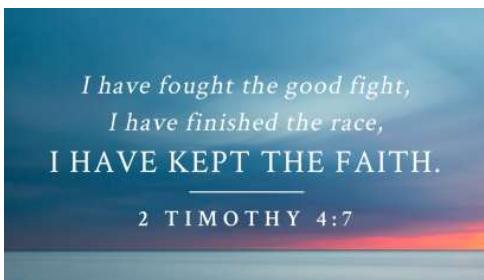
Chaplain's Message

Jodi Keith Kensinger, Pennsylvania State Grange Chaplain
sunflowercow19@yahoo.com

Happy new year from Central Pennsylvania! I pray that the Christmas season was wonderful for you and your family.

As I was considering the topic for this article... I was really struggling. I remember laying in bed a couple days after Thanksgiving and asking God to show me what he wanted me to write. Not surprisingly, he came through, in a very big way... at 1 am in the morning. All of our smoke detectors in our home went off in the middle of the night. When that happens, you also think the worst..... THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE! But in our case, we did not smell smoke; we did not see flames. Luckily, after calling 911, the fire chief that lived close to our house was available to come and just examine everything. Praise the Lord it just turned out to be dead batteries in our smoke detectors that decided to alert us in the middle of the night!

To me, this is a reminder of how we need to be prepared. Prepared in life for the ups and downs; prepared for time with our growing children; and more importantly, prepared for whenever Christ comes back. A co-worker shared with me a testimony from her friend, Jess, about what her 3-year-old daughter, Sophie said: "Last night Sophie and I were saying a prayer and thanking God for the stuff we have in life. The she proceeds to tell me Jesus is coming soon, we are going to heaven and she would not let me sink to the bottom. Little Sophie said that she would hold on to me and daddy would hold on to Luke and we would be together in Heaven!" Wow—out of



the mouths of babes. Here is another example of being alert and getting prepared.

This reminds me of the passage from 2 Timothy 4:1-8: "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

For centuries, God called the prophets to prepare for the Savior's coming. He came, He provided Salvation for us. After He returned to heaven, His spirit stayed with us. Evangelists, like Paul, including you and I, are called to prepare the peoples' hearts for His second coming. Christ came and he will come again and we are to be prepared! Have a great winter, Friends! Stay warm & God Bless!

Love Always,
Jodi Keith Kensinger



Family Activities

Cindy Schlegel & Evelyn Cottrell, Co-Directors
clbasket@ptd.net

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful, blessed holiday season.

First, I would like to thank everyone for the entries you had in the Family Activities Department. We sure do have a lot of talented people in our Granges; we had a total of 128 entries this year. Keep up the good work. We are looking for a few more this coming year.

Congratulations to those who placed in any of the categories you entered. The judges had a great time judging the items and their remarks were what great talent you all have. All the winners are listed on page 24 of this issue of the PGN. I would like to thank all of you who donated prizes for the Quilt & More Raffle. We had 17 prizes to give away; it is very much appreciated. and a special thanks for all of you who sold the tickets; without you this would not have been possible.

You will be receiving your packet for the Family Activities Contests soon, it is for two years



2024 Raffle Quilt

We could still use your help selling tickets at the Farm Show!

Also, remember to sell raffle tickets at any of your events throughout the year!

2024 and 2025. Please read them carefully so you don't get the projects mixed up with the wrong year. The packet will include the 2024 Quilt Raffle tickets.

The only changes this year are the quilt block which is called "Southern Belle" to be done in all Blue and White printed and plain fabrics. Baking/Cooking Contest - Class 12 - Blueberry Muffins - Class 13 - Pumpkin Whoopie Pies - Class 14 - Cereal Candy, cereal can be any kind of your choice, everything else if the same as 2023.

Cindy and I would like to thank you for being patient with us this year as Co-Directors of the department. Being a director is different than being on the committee; there is so much more to do that has to be done. We did have a few glitches this last year and apologize for them. We hope we will be a bit more efficient this year. Thanks again for being patient.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with either Cindy or me.

Hope you have a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year.

Fraternally,
Evelyn Cottrell



Youth & Young Adults

Jennifer Danko & Lindsay Schroeder, Co-Directors
youth@pagrange.org
Jen 717-275-5047 Lindsay 484-225-0440

Greetings from the Youth Department. This year our **“Youth Supporter of the Year”** award is someone we’ve all known for a long time. Although this person needs no introduction, we will be giving you a small background. This individual is a world wide traveler, lives with a five-star chef, and comes with many years of experience in the Grange. They have been a previous member of the royalty team in both the Junior and Youth programs.

This person is a mentor and friend to many current and former youth/young adult members. This person’s support has never wavered, and you can always call if you need anything Grange related or not.

She is ALWAYS there for any of us. Always listening, showing us how to believe in ourselves, always supporting the youth program and answering any questions that we have had since taking over the youth program. Thank you so much for all your hard work into this Pennsylvania Youth Program. Congratulations, **ELLEN WADSWORTH!** We love you and your ongoing support! A picture of Ellen receiving this award is on page 25.

We have been busy with both state and national sessions, as we were well represented in both Morgantown, PA and Niagara Falls, NY.

Congratulations to the following youth who served as part of the National Youth Officer team: Sadie Johnson ~ Lecturer, Ashlan Smith ~ Secretary, Shae Smith ~ Ceres, and Harvey Reyburn ~ Gatekeeper.



In addition, congratulations to Bryce Danko for winning 1st place in the Grange Baseball competition. We are PA Youth Proud.



National Youth Officer Team members from Pennsylvania





Deaf & Community Service

Tina Keen, Deaf & Community Service Director
pagrangedcs@gmail.com
973-255-8959

“First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you.” - Romans 1:8a

THANK YOU for all of your donations that allowed us to show the community the giving nature of Grange. The numerous items donated to our Veterans housed at the Coatesville VA – shirts, toiletries, underwear, and more – are appreciated beyond words. In addition, through the generosity of Granges through donations, appeal funds, supporting the Bike/Walk-a-Thon, and purchasing silent auction baskets at Family Festival, we were able to present Jennifer Lilly, Chief at the Center for Development and Civic Engagement, with a check for \$1000 to support our Veterans. Church offering funds allowed us to present her with a second check for an additional \$280!



We were also delighted to support a presentation by Jeff Winton from Rural Minds at State Session. In addition to a \$1000 check presented Thursday evening, donations permitted us to donate an additional \$400 to support this incredible cause. Please consider holding a Mental Health Awareness presentation at your Grange – the importance of this cannot be stressed enough. There is a mental health emergency in rural America, and through our partnership with Rural Minds, we hope to raise awareness of this fact.



Thank you to all Granges who submitted reports and Project of the Year trifolds! It was incredible to read of all the good works we are doing in our neighborhoods! Please post your community service projects on Facebook and tag me so I can post on our State Grange Community Service page.



“Whatsoever you attempt to do, strive to do it well.”

Fraternally,
Tina



Public Relations

Bernadette Comfort, Public Relations Consultant
bernie@nsallc.com publicrelations@pagrange.org

Earned Media Raises Your Organization's Profile

As you work to promote your organization to the public consider how your Grange and Grange members can work to secure earned media to promote your organization. Several things you can do include writing opinion pieces for local newspapers or contacting local news outlets to cover your Grange event or program.

We have been working to raise the profile of the Pennsylvania State Grange by having Master Matt Espenshade submit op-eds on important issues. This year Master Espenshade submitted opinion pieces on the importance of natural gas earlier in the year and most recent Master Espenshade submitted an op-ed on the deadly topic of opioid addiction in rural Pennsylvania. This op-ed was published in more than 15 publications across Pennsylvania addressing a life and death topic and identifying a solution. The op-ed was recognized by several state and national leaders that praised the Pennsylvania Grange

for shedding light on an important issue. Local Granges can do the same thing with local, state, or federal topics too. Remember that op-eds are generally 400-600 words in length while letters to the editor are typically 150 to 200 words in length.

Another type of earned media that can help raise the profile of your local Grange is to contact local media (print and television) about an upcoming Grange event. To attract local media, you should send media contacts a media advisory identifying the who, where, what and when of your event. Also, your local Grange could send out a press release following an important event to try and secure media coverage. The Pennsylvania State Grange recently sent out a media advisory prior to our Rural Minds presentation at the State Session and a press release following the event that resulted in two newspapers reporting on the event.

If you are in need of any advice on seeking earned media coverage for your local Grange, contact Bernie Comfort at bernie@nsallc.com

Scholarships & Grant Applications

Due May 1, 2024

Santee Student Loans

Five \$2,000 interest free loans awarded per year

Rhone Grant

\$300

one grant awarded per year

Grant given in honor of Leonard Rhone, the third Master of the PA State Grange.

The Grange Scholarship Endowment at Penn State University

\$1,500 per academic year

(may be renewed in subsequent years)

Deaf Interpreter Scholarship

\$250

one grant awarded per year

Pennsylvania State Grange Foundation Scholarship

\$500 per academic year

(may be renewed in subsequent years)

Up to four scholarships awarded per year

For a complete list of Scholarships and qualifications please go to www.pagrange.org. Click on Documents and scroll down to Scholarship Forms



The Junior Granger

Philip Vonada, Junior Grange Director
pajuniorgrange@gmail.com
814-404-7985

Wow, out of nowhere, the holidays are over and we've reached what feels like the longest, darkest stretch of the year. It's easy at this time of year to become sad or isolated, so I hope you find a way to enjoy some company with your Junior Grange friends.

Maybe this would be a great time to gather your Juniors and Juniors-at-Heart together to try one of our new contests or programs in our guide, found in the sidebar at <http://www.pagrang.org/juniors.html>.

What an exciting and fun year we had in 2023! From Farm Show to Junior Camp to State and National Grange Sessions (and everything in between), it was a busy year for our Junior Grangers.

I want to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who sold and purchased tickets for our cornhole board raffle. The winners were:

1. Cornhole board set - Clay Snyder, Scrubgrass Grange #1705
2. Engraved JG glass set - Ruth Vonada, Penns Valley Grange #158
3. Junior Grange goodie bag - Tom Kehs, Russellville Grange #91
4. Junior Grange goodie bag - Joann Murray, Eagle Grange #1



I also want to send congratulations to Russellville Junior Grange #550, who won our **Junior Grange of the Year**. This was our first year back with this contest, so I hope to see even more wonderful things coming from Junior Granges around the state.

It was a fantastic honor to be joined at our convention by National JG Ambassador Nettie Hartley and her dad, Walter (who happens to be the Rhode Island State Grange President).

National Session

It was awesome to see so many Pennsylvania Juniors at National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, New York in November. You all were incredible representatives of what it means to be a good Junior Granger and made me incredibly proud!

Congrats to Sarah Scharf for being honored with the Red Tier Cape of Honor for her Community Service work, and to William Keen and Brianna Keen who won White Tier awards. All three are members of Russellville Junior Grange.



And I'm **so excited** to announce that one of our very own PAJG Ambassadors, Gayle Reyburn, has been named as the **National Junior Grange Ambassador**. Gayle did an amazing job representing our state and our Junior department, and being a leader among ALL of the Juniors at National Session this year. Of course, she steps into the role that Nettie has had for the past year, and I'm very thankful they're such good friends!

I can't wait to work with Gayle in both my role as State Director and as National Communications Director.

PLEASE take the time to invite her and Braden to your programs throughout the year - they have a lot to offer.



As we enter 2024, I hope you have an amazing year. Please use me as a resource for your Junior Granges!

I hope you'll join us online for our first **Junior Online Gathering** of the year on January 21, at 2pm.

Best wishes, and as always...
Be Kind,

Phil

**JUNIOR
ONLINE
GATHERING**

**January 21
2:00pm
on Zoom**

for all Junior Grangers in Pennsylvania
Join us for an hour of fun
with friends from across the state!

Secretary's Corner

Debbie Campbell, State Secretary
dcampbell@pagrange.org

Secretary Packets will be mailed out in either February or March, so please keep an eye out for them. There are a few things to make note of...the **National Assessment** of \$1 per member of your Subordinate Grange was approved by the National Grange delegates in 2011. It was approved by the State Grange Executive Committee to put it on the Quarterly Report in 2011. It is imperative that each Subordinate Grange pays this assessment as noted on the 1st Quarter Report, which is due April 30.

I know a lot of Subordinate Granges have open houses or community night programs coming up. If you need **seals** for your member recognitions, please make sure that you get them ordered in plenty of time. There is also an increase in the seals, they are now \$5.

Also, make sure that you go over your spreadsheet of members, and review the information such as, but not limited to, Address; Email Address; Phone Number; DOB and Membership Date (this is the date they joined the Grange). By correcting this report, keeps our database current and makes sure that members are receiving important information such as the Pennsylvania Grange News magazine.





Government Matters

Carrie Nace, Legislative Consultant
carrie@nsallc.com
717-424-5832

I sincerely hope that everyone had a relaxing and wonderful Holiday Season with friends and family. I have been extremely grateful to be with family as these times are most precious as the years pass and we lose those close to us. Personally, I have several people I kept in my thoughts and prayers as I knew they would have a difficult time missing loved ones and made sure I checked in on them. This is one of the most valuable lessons I have been taught by the Grange, the importance of these relationships.

As a new year begins, I look forward to all the wonderful and exciting events with the Pennsylvania State Grange. First up is the 2024 Farm Show which is sure to be a great week. We look forward to having our first ever educational program for individuals who apply pesticides and a chance to get credit towards their educational requirements. It will be held on January 11 from 10:00am - noon in the Monongahela room, near the McClay Street entrance.

Legislative Work & Key Accomplishments In 2023

The Pennsylvania State Grange had a busy year with several legislative priorities in 2023. Several of these same legislative priorities will keep the Pennsylvania State Grange busy in 2024 along with some new topics voted upon at the State Session in October.

Broadband

At the top of the Pennsylvania State Grange legislative list was supporting the work of the PA Broadband Development Authority. Pennsylvania State Grange was selected

to serve on the Education and Advisory Subcommittee. The Pennsylvania State Grange supported SB 566: inventory of state properties to see where cellular add-ons can be placed in rural areas. Reliable and competitive broadband access remains a priority. The Pennsylvania State Grange insists that state and federal funds designated to help expand service should FIRST be dedicated to areas with limited or no service. As reliable broadband is a must for rural Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Grange will continue to advocate for broadband across Pennsylvania.

Dairy

The Pennsylvania State Grange continued to be invested in supporting the Dairy Industry in Pennsylvania. Grange members have repeatedly testified to the PA Milk Marketing Board in support of maintaining the current over order premium until a better program can be implemented.

The Grange worked to collaborate with other stakeholders to work towards a dairy policy that will benefit the dairy industry in Pennsylvania and looks forward to continuing meaningful dialogue to that end.

Pennsylvania State Grange continued to advocate in 2023 that whole milk be served in school meal programs and that imposters be prevented from using the word "milk" to identify their product. We support Dairy Keystone Opportunity Zones to attract business investment in regional dairy processing facilities to reduce fluid milk transportation costs and get farmers more over-order premium dollars because their milk is processed in-state.

Solar

The Pennsylvania State Grange also was asked to sit on a solar advisory committee. The Pennsylvania State Grange supports SB 798 and the sponsoring Senator, Doug Mastriano, asked Pennsylvania State Grange to stand by him as he introduced proposed restrictions on solar energy factories placed on prime farmland. Additionally, Grange members presented testimony at a regional rural energy conference on solar. Also, the Pennsylvania State Grange supported solar facility bonding to pay for decommissioning (SB 211 and HB 925).



Other Legislative Topics

The Pennsylvania State Grange supported necessary funding for Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State Extension, and the Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

At Farm Show, Pennsylvania State Grange offered a public forum on scams and combatting consumer fraud. Afterwards, a state representative contacted the State Grange to set up a similar program for the constituents of her district.

At Farm Show, Pennsylvania State Grange hosted a panel discussion on next-generation workforce development, highlighting combined efforts that need to be undertaken to ensure career paths encourage ag opportunities.

Also, the Pennsylvania State Grange testified for continuance of Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board over-order premium. The Pennsylvania State Grange supported a Dairy Farmer Tax Credit for dairy producers

based on Massachusetts law. We are working with a Senate sponsor on future introduction of such a bill.

Additionally, we engaged in several 2023 Farm Bill listening sessions hosted by Congressman “GT” Thompson. PA State Grange Master Matt Espenshade was invited to be part of his panel discussion at the annual Ag Summit.

Finally, we supported SB 746, which allowed modernization of and funding for PA Dog Law.

2024 Outlook

Looking forward to 2024, the Pennsylvania State Grange will continue to focus on several legislative priorities including the ones previously mentioned but new priorities as well.

Foreign ownership of U.S. and Pennsylvania Prime Farmland has begun to be a hot topic both in the Pennsylvania State Grange but also across the country. Not only must we protect our precious farmland from being taken out of agricultural production, but we must also look to secure our land from foreign threats.

Therefore, the Pennsylvania State Grange adopted two legislative resolutions at the 2023 State Session which looks to protect this land. The first would ask the Pennsylvania State Budget and Finance Committee to collect data to determine how much of our land is owned by foreign entities. If Pennsylvania has the data, then the state can begin to understand the threat we may be under.

The second resolution would prohibit the sale of land in Pennsylvania to foreign entities. The Pennsylvania State Grange began to advocate for these policies immediately after State Session ended.

2024 looks to be a busy year in Harrisburg, but as always, the Grange stands ready to hit the ground running to advocate on behalf of all of its members.



PA Grange Partnerships for the Betterment of Agriculture and Rural Communities

From Troops to Tractors: PA Veteran Farming Network Opens Ag Opportunities

About 2 percent of the American population is tied to production agriculture. That's about the same percentage that serves in the military. Through the Pennsylvania Veteran Farming Network (PAVFN), both worlds are brought together to help veterans transition into a potential farming career.



The Network was established in 2013 in response to the needs of veterans seeking resources to establish and grow their farm-related businesses. It also serves as a connection hub for veteran farmers, according to Mimi Thomas-Brooker, Executive Director and founder of the PA Veteran Farming Network.

“Veterans have been described as a microcosm of American society—there is no ‘typical’ veteran farmer, so we tailor our programming to what our members tell us they want and need to succeed in agriculture,” said Thomas-Brooker. “Our members come from Pennsylvania and from away; have farmed as kids or have never farmed; see farming as a hobby or as a business. Data tells us that newer veterans are more educated than those of earlier eras, are entrepreneurial, and are also more likely to have a disability as a result of military service. But in our experience, no matter the individual characteristics of the veteran who engages with the Network, as a group, they are motivated to become the best farmers they can, to be good stewards of the land and resources, and generous in feeding

their communities.”

The Network is a statewide collection of veterans, military and spouses who farm or operate agribusinesses.

“We leverage the power of our network and collaborators in the ag and veteran communities to help members meet the challenges of building strong and productive farms and agribusinesses,” Thomas-Brooker said.

Throughout the year, the Network conducts interviews with aspiring veteran farmers to assess their needs, potential opportunities and where they are in their farming journey. They then link the farmer up with potential learning opportunities, other veteran farmers, and other programs that could assist their progress.

“While the PAVFN educates and advocates around issues important to small farmers, we do not lobby, so in order for your voice to be heard by decision-makers, veterans may choose to join membership organizations that can.”

Annually, they host a one-day Veteran Farming Conference featuring veteran farmers presenting their “lessons learned,” agribusiness and production topics and networking opportunities. Outside of the annual conference, they host on-farm workshops, stakeholder tours and meet with elected officials to share the opportunities and barriers faced by small farmers.



Hopkins Farm of Falls, PA

Thomas-Brooker notes that the evolution of the annual conference demonstrates the education. At the first conference, USDA staff hosted an informational session on how to utilize the USDA EQIP program. The second year, a veteran farmer contacted his local NRCS office seeking help with the federal program. This past year, that farmer hosted a farm tour to show how he utilized EQIP to make a difference in his farm. He's also now a member of the program's advisory board.

“While ‘YouTube University’ can be a great teacher, there’s no substitute for getting your boots dirty with someone who’s been there before. We can help make those connections,” she said. The Network provides aspiring veteran farmers a place to learn and ask questions.

The Network is always looking for people and organizations to connect to help veteran farmers to the larger farming community.

“While the PAVFN educates and advocates around issues important to small farmers, we do not lobby, so in order for your voice to be heard by decision-makers, veterans may choose to join membership organizations that can,” Thomas-Brooker said.

As the Network heads into its second decade of existence, it continues to evolve.

“As a member-driven organization led by veterans who volunteer their time, we’re proud to be a grassroots network nimble enough

to respond to emerging needs creatively and collaboratively,” she said.

Education, mentoring, and networking are core functions of the Pennsylvania Veteran Farming Network. It “will remain so as they are key to empowering our members to be resilient, successful, and sustainable. As we grow, we’ll continue to foster the beneficial connections in the ag and veteran community we now enjoy, and grow new ones to benefit our members, their communities, and the food system in Pennsylvania.”

We encourage local Granges to participate in this program and would also like for you to strongly consider using this program as one of your literary programs. Please use the contact information in the sidebar.



Who Can Participate?

Active duty military.
National Guard and Reservists.
Honorably discharged veterans.

How to connect:

Visit pavetfarms.org
-Sign up for the monthly newsletter
Social media: Facebook, Instagram
pavetsfarm@gmail.com
<https://www.troopstottractors.org/>

150th Anniversary Celebration...



Some of the pennants on display from community Granges.



Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding presenting a Proclamation.



Andrew Keiffer named 2023 Junior Supporter of the Year.



Junior Grangers from Berks County presenting the flag at the Junior Meeting.



Hartslog Valley Grange member Jackie Clabaugh participating in the Public Speaking contest.



70+ year membership recipients that were recognized at the Anniversary Celebration.



Master Matt and Tina Keen, D&CS Director presenting a check to Jeff Winton of Rural Minds.

and other State Session Highlights



The Youth Team presenting their drill at the Celebration Pageant.



Some of the table displays that were lining the perimeter of the Session room.



Gary Moore's "Searching for the Wizard of Oz in the Grange" presentation at the banquet.



The pennant celebrating the 150th Anniversary.



Ellen Wadsworth named 2023 Youth Supporter of the Year.



Past State Presidents and First Ladies were recognized at the Pageant.



Some of the different department's contest entries.

State Session Contest Winners

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Recycled Can – Practical/Useful

Age 5-9:

1. Sawyer Straub
2. Molly Reyburn

Age 10-14

1. Sarah Scharf
2. Emilee Book
3. Justin Dusko

Junior at Heart

1. Ashley Kolpak

Recycled Can – Decorative

Age 5-9

1. Michaela Martin
2. Daxter Irons
3. MaKenna McGuire
4. Brantley Zimmerman

Age 10-14

1. Addison McGuire
2. Sadie Freyer
3. Carisa Schaeffer
4. Nolan Fayewicz

Junior at Heart

1. Ashley Kolpak

Baking – Muffins: Sweet

Age 5-9

1. MaKenna McGuire
2. Kenzi Irons
3. Jesse Maine
4. Sawyer Straub

Age 10-14

1. Stella Assid
2. Addison McGuire

Baking – Muffins: Savory

Age 5-9

1. Macie Maine
2. Sawyer Straub
3. MaKenna McGuire

Age 10-14

1. Addison McGuire
2. Ruby Reyburn

Design a T-Shirt – “Be Kind”

Age 5-9

1. Elsa Kehs
2. Brayden Covey

3. Foster Kehs

4. Molly Reyburn

Age 10-14

1. Ruby Reyburn
2. Sarah Scharf
3. Gabriel Anzueto Estrada
4. Kayleigh Covey

Creative Writing – “All About My Hero”

Age 5-9

1. Savannah Beamon

Building Blocks – Practical/Useful

Age 5-9

1. Sawyer Straub
2. Macie Maine
3. William Keen

Age 10-14

1. Lincoln Furman
2. Jacob Schroeder
3. Sarah Scharf
4. Nolan Fayewicz

Building Blocks – Animals

Age 5-9

1. Sawyer Straub
2. William Keen
3. Brianna Keen

Age 10-14

1. Sarah Scharf
2. Emilee Book

Mini Pumpkin Decorating – Painted

Age 5-9

1. Jesse Maine
2. Molly Reyburn
3. Elsa Kehs
4. Macie Maine

Age 10-14

1. Addison McGuire
2. Sarah Scharf
3. Stella Assid
4. Carisa Schaeffer

Junior at Heart

1. Lindsay Schroeder
2. Ashley Kolpak

Mini Pumpkin Decorating – Be Creative

Age 5-9

1. Sawyer Straub
2. Michaela Martin

Junior at Heart

1. Ashley Kolpak
2. Lindsay Schroeder

Pumpkin Decorating – Virtual Contest

Age 10-14

1. Gabriel Anzueto Estrada
2. Christopher Anzueto Estrada

Junior at Heart

1. Ashley Kolpak

Scrapbook Page – “Holiday Fun”

Age 5-9

1. MaKenna McGuire

Age 10-14

1. Addison McGuire

Art: Image – Buildings

Age 5-9

1. Savannah Beamon
2. Molly Reyburn
3. Riley Beamon
4. Brayden Covey

Age 10-14

1. Justin Dusko
2. Natalee Zug
3. Ellie Schroeder
4. Lillian Dusko

Art: Image – Nature

Age 5-9

1. Savannah Beamon
2. Catie Furman
3. Molly Reyburn
4. Carisa Schaeffer

Age 10-14

1. Natalee Zug
2. Lillian Dusko
3. Madelyn Vonada
4. Addison McGuire

Art: Image – My Family

Age 5-9

1. Savannah Beamon
2. Kenzi Irons

Age 10-14

1. Karlie Supplee
2. Riley Koszewski
3. Natalee Zug

Art: Image – Abstract

Age 5-9

1. MaKenna McGuire
2. Savannah Beamon
3. Sawyer Straub

4. William Keen

Age 10-14

1. Sarah Scharf
2. Gabriel Anzueto Estrada
3. Madelyn Vonada
4. Lillian Dusko

Art: 3D – Buildings

Age 5-9

1. Michaela Martin
2. Aubrey Check
3. William Keen

Age 10-14

1. Sarah Scharf

Art: 3D – Nature

Age 5-9

1. MaKenna McGuire
2. Carlee Book
3. William Keen
4. Molly Reyburn

Age 10-14

1. Nolan Fayewicz
2. Ellie Schroeder
3. Sarah Scharf
4. Addison McGuire

Art: 3D – Abstract

Age 5-9

1. Michaela Martin
2. Foster Kehs
3. William Keen
4. Brianna Keen

Age 10-14

1. Emilee Book
2. Addison McGuire
3. Sarah Scharf
4. Ruby Reyburn

Photography: My Hometown

Age 5-9

1. MaKenna McGuire
2. Michaela Martin
3. Sawyer Straub
4. Molly Reyburn

Photography: Flowers

Age 5-9

1. Sawyer Straub
2. Michaela Martin
3. Molly Reyburn

Photography: “The Cutest Thing!”

Age 5-9

1. Michaela Martin

2. Sawyer Straub
 3. Molly Reyburn
- Age 10-14
1. Nolan Fayewicz
 2. Addison McGuire
 3. Carisa Schaeffer
 4. Ruby Reyburn

Photography: My Favorite Season

Age 5-9

1. Michaela Martin
2. Sawyer Straub
3. Molly Reyburn

Age 10-14

1. Ruby Reyburn

Mini Art Showcase

Dylan Beamon

Eli Maine

Cyrus Reyburn

Gabriella Zug

Junior Supporter of the Year: Andrew Kieffer

PA Junior Grange of the Year: Russellville

Junior Grange #550

2nd Place: Hookstown Junior Grange #181

Junior Grange Superstars

Savannah Beamon

Sadie Freyer

William Keen

Elsa Kehs

Foster Kehs

Gretchen Reich

Gayle Reyburn

Molly Reyburn

Ruby Reyburn

Sarah Scharf

Ellie Schroeder

Jacob Schroeder

Braden Thomson

Junior Grange Shooting Stars

Riley Beamon

Heidi Eisenhower

Julie Eisenhower

Nolan Fayewicz

Catie Furman

Lincoln Furman

Nettie Hartley

Michaela Martin

Sarah Riegel

Travis Riegel

Emma Seidel

- Sawyer Straub
 Madelyn Vonada
 Madelyn Warham

FAMILY ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

Quilt Blocks: Triangles & Rectangles

1. Jane Reppert
2. Alice Hartman
3. Ginny Mangel

Quilts: Hand Quilted by an individual

1. Ginny Mangel
2. Marybeth Southworth

Quilts: Hand Quilted Group

1. Marybeth Southworth

Quilts: Baby/Crib, Hand Quilted

1. Marybeth Southworth

Quilts: Baby/Crib, Machine Quilted

1. Barbara Warden
2. Barbara Gross

Quilts: Wall Hanging, Hand Quilted

1. Marybeth Southworth
2. Sandra Hill

Quilts: Wall Hanging, Machine Quilted

1. Karen McElhinney
2. Barbara Warden
3. Gretchen Kralj

Quilts: Machine Quilted, Judge top ONLY

1. Barbara Gross
2. Barbara Warden
3. Ginny Mangel

Baking/Cooking: Carrot Cake

1. Marci Schlegel
2. Chase Kosciusko
3. Susan Tau

Baking/Cooking: Gingerbread Cookies

1. Gloria Hahn
2. Laura Sharpnack
3. Miranda Irons

Baking/Cooking: Chocolate Fudge

1. Linda Cehily
2. Jean Hollabaugh
3. Terry Murray

Afghans: Full Size, Crochet

1. Debra Kieffer
2. Gloria Hahn
3. Nettie Martsolf

Afghans: Full Size, Knitted

1. Nettie Martsolf

2. Sharon Heck
Afghan: Baby, Crochet

1. Jane Reppert
2. Amelia Mitchell
3. Gloria Hahn

Afghan: Baby, Knitted

1. Nettie Martsof
2. Sharon Heck
3. Shirley Garren

Embroidery: 12" & under

1. Nettie Martsof
2. Marybeth Southworth

Embroidery: 12 1/16" & over

1. Jeanette McDonald
2. Gladys Kieffer
3. Ruth Vonada

Cross Stitch: 12 1/16" & over

1. Ellen Schaller
2. Diane Lomison

Counted Cross Stitch: 12" & under

1. Jill Cavalero
2. Louise Nogle
3. Tina Keen

Counted Cross Stitch: 12 1/16" & over

1. Ruth Vonada

Plastic Canvas: Needlepoint

1. Tina Keen
2. Mary McMillin
3. Jane Reppert

Cotton Thread: Doilies/Centerpieces

1. Tina Keen
2. Carol Harris
3. Diane Waxler

Tin Punching: Large

1. Jerry Chambers
2. Sandra Hill
3. Jill Cavalero

Tin Punching: Small

1. Walt Chesney
2. Cyndi Wetzel

Belts: Women's

1. Ginny Mangel
2. Cyndi Wetzel

Belts: Men's

1. Braden Thomson

Stenciling: Wood

1. Jerry Chambers
2. Darlene Shinsky
3. Tina Keen

Stenciling: Slate

1. Debra Kieffer
2. Tina Keen
3. Darlene Shinsky

Stenciling: Fabric

1. Tina Keen
2. Jackie Clabaugh
3. Jill Cavalero

Stenciling: Glass

1. Jackie Clabaugh
2. Jill Cavalero
3. Tina Keen

FA Pomona Chairperson of the Year

Ginny Mangel

FA Subordinate Chairperson of the Year

Jane Reppert

People's Choice Award

Ruth Vonada, Counted Cross Stitch

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT
QUILT RAFFLE WINNERS**

Quilt: Christine Mallick

Table Runner: Wanda Schreck

Happy Fall Yall: Jane Adams

Apple Peeler: Nate Blasco

Starbucks Gift Card: Denise Kostelansky

Cozy Up: Susan Johnson

Plush Blanket: Nancy Unstead

Lawn Snowflake: Suzanne Davidson

Wooden Plaque: Kimberly Reynolds

Fall Vase: Marianne Mukie

Lawn Snowflake: Mona Bowmaster

2 quart Slow Cooker: Christine Mallick

Fall Basket: Dawson Grange #419

Apple Sweets: Kris McCloskey

Tea Bag Gift Bag: Nettie Kauffman

Tea Bag Gift Bag: Anna May Nauss

Fall Gathering Basket: Anita Fuchs

Fall Star: Elizabeth Deihl

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Start With a Cake Mix: Chocolate Variation

1. Mary McMillin
2. Philip Vonada
3. Tammy Schaeffer

Start With a Cake Mix: White/Yellow Variation

1. Kelly Van Ord

2. Tammy Schaeffer

3. Jessica Reyburn

Start With a Cake Mix: Spice/Fruit/Nut Vari.

1. Tina Keen

2. Mary McMillin

3. Philip Vonada

Cupcake Decorating: Ages 5-13

1. Ruby Reyburn

2. Cyrus Reyburn

3. William Keen

Cupcake Decorating: Ages 14+

1. Jessica Reyburn

2. Mary McMillin

3. Tina Keen

Scrapbook Page: Grange

1. Ashley Kolpak

2. Gail Switzer

Scrapbook Page: Other

1. Ashley Kolpak

2. Gail Switzer

Building Block Creation: Ages 14-21

1. Chase Kosciuszko

Building Block Creation: Ages 22-35

1. Ashley Kolpak

2. Desira Rickenbach

3. Lindsay Schroeder

String Art: Ages 14-21

1. Kay Reyburn

2. Merle Reyburn

3. Harvey Reyburn

String Art: Ages 22-35

1. Robert Beamon

Recycled Craft: Plastic (Ages 22-35)

1. Lindsay Schroeder

2. Ashley Kolpak

Recycled Craft: Fabric (Ages 22-35)

1. Kay Reyburn

2. Ashley Kolpak

Recycled Craft: Wood (Ages 22-35)

1. Lindsay Schroeder

2. Ashley Kolpak

Grange Display: Ages 22-35

1. Ashley Kolpak

Create a Grange Flyer: Ages 14-21

1. Riley Danko

Create a Grange Flyer: Ages 22-35

1. Ashley Kolpak

2. Gail Switzer

Public Speaking: Prepared, Ages 14-21

1. Shae Smith

Public Speaking ~ Prepared: Ages 36+

1. Tina Keen

2. Lurae Benzio

3. Mary McMillin

Jackie Clabaugh

Public Speaking: Impromptu, Ages 14-21

1. Elisabeth Reich

2. Bryce Danko

3. Harvey Reyburn

Public Speaking: Impromptu, Ages 22-35

1. Philip Vonada

2. Gail Switzer

Public Speaking: Impromptu, Ages 36+

1. Tina Keen

2. Tina Reich

3. Laura McMillin

Public Speaking: DIY, Ages 36+

1. Cindy Keith

2. Sara Newman

Youth Supporter of the Year: Ellen Wadsworth

LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Lecturer's Reports Subordinate:

Up to 50 Members

1. Amy Burke

2. Kathryn Geist

3. Mary Jane Kent

4. Jacqueline Clabaugh

51-99 Members

1. Drew Fegley

2. Tina Keen

3. Philip Vonada

4. Kari Thompson

100+ Members

1. Lorrie Wesner

Lecturer's Reports Pomona:

1. Laura McMillin

2. Judy Stevenson

3. Georgette Mummert

4. Mary Jane Kent

Lecturer's Scrapbooks Subordinate:

Up to 50 Members

1. Douglas Bonsall

2. Cheryl Miller

3. Chester Tau

4. Judy Stevenson

51-99 Members

1. Tammy Jurkowski
2. Linda Roan

100+ Members

1. Melissa Clark

Lecturer's Scrapbooks Pomona:

1. Douglas Bonsall
2. Cheryl Miller
3. Arvilla Allen
4. Elaine Hoppes

Creative Connections Reports/Scrapbooks**Division A – Granges that held Open Houses****Up to 50 Members**

1. Gene Zvarick
2. Chester Tau
3. Krista Pontius

51-99 Members

1. Meg Lomax
2. Drew Fegley
3. Linda Roan
4. Kari Thompson

100+ Members

1. Lorrie Wesner
2. Megan Stang

Pomona

1. Judy Stevenson
2. Arvilla Allen

Division B – Granges that held a designated activity to “tell their Grange’s story”**Up to 50 Members**

1. Robert Warden
2. Judy Stevenson
3. Tom Troutman
4. Jayne Jacobson

Pomona

1. Cheryl Miller
2. Elaine Hoppes
3. Janet Fishovitz

My Favorite Anything Subordinate**Wood:**

1. Maryann Swartz
2. Deborah Kolpak
3. Ashley Kolpak
4. Jodi Keith Kensinger

Plastic:

1. Deborah Kolpak
2. Tina Keen
3. Ashley Kolpak
4. Missy Clark

Material/Yarn:

1. Ava Jenkins
2. Deborah Kolpak
3. Ashley Kolpak
4. Kay Reyburn

Miscellaneous:

1. Kay Reyburn
2. Donald Kauffman
3. Charlie McKee
4. Deborah Kolpak

My Favorite Anything Junior**Plastic:**

1. Sarah Scharf

Material/Yarn:

1. Sarah Scharf
2. Molly Reyburn

Miscellaneous:

1. Molly Reyburn

BEST OF SHOW: Kay Reyburn, Miscellaneous**Pen in Hand: Class 1 – Poetry**

1. Miranda Irons
2. Sara Newman
3. Ashley Kolpak

Pen In Hand: Class 2 – Short Story

1. Ashley Kolpak
2. Sara Newman
3. Mary McMillin
4. Jackie Clabaugh

Pen In Hand: Class 3 – Grange of the Future

1. Tim Schaeffer
2. Ken Schlegel
3. Deborah Kolpak

Art: Nature/Animals

1. Ava Jenkins
2. Deborah Kolpak
3. Jennifer Beamon
4. Jodi Keith Kensinger

Art: People

1. Deborah Kolpak
2. Ashley Kolpak
3. Chase Kosciuszko

Art: Still Life

1. Ashley Kolpak
2. Deborah Kolpak
3. Chase Kosciuszko
4. Jodi Keith Kensinger

BEST OF SHOW: Ava Jenkins, Nature/Animals**Photography: Class 1 – Bridges**

1. Jane Reppert

2. Cyndi Wetzel
3. Judy Stevenson
4. Ashley Kolpak

Photography: Class 2 – Wildlife

1. Jane Reppert
2. Andrew Nauss
3. Ginny Mangel
4. Madeline Seidel

Photography: Class 3 – Landscape

1. Jane Adams
2. Andrew Nauss
3. Rick Koenig
4. Bradley Nauss

Photography: Class 4 – People

1. Bradley Nauss
2. Madeline Seidel
3. Gail Switzer
4. Jane Reppert

Photography: Class 5 – Celebrations

1. Judy Stevenson
2. Jane Reppert
3. Cyndi Wetzel
4. Gail Switzer

BEST OF SHOW: Jane Reppert, Wildlife

Design a Program

1. Ashley Kolpak – “Beds for Kids – Sleep Well Program”
2. Gail Switzer – “Just About January”
3. Gail Switzer – “The Scoop on September”

Lecturer’s Grant – Received a grant of \$100

“Polar Express Event” – Liberty Grange

DEAF & COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Community Service Reports

Granges with 25 or few Members

1. Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444
2. Unionville Grange #1971
3. Atlantic Grange #344

Granges with 26-60 Members

1. Eagle Grange #1
2. Hayfield Grange #800
3. Russellville Grange #91

Granges with 61 or more Members

1. Big Knob Grange #2008
2. Valley Grange #1360
3. Penns Valley Grange #158

Pomona Granges

1. Perry County Pomona #69
2. Beaver County Pomona #66
3. Centre County Pomona #13

Project of the Year

Junior Granges

1. Russellville Junior Grange #550

Subordinate/Pomona Granges

1. Marion Grange #223
2. Virginville Grange #1832
3. Russellville Grange #91

Deaf Awareness Poster

1. Gail Switzer, Marion Grange #1853 & Goshen Grange #121
2. Ashley Kolpak, Chester Valley Grange #1496

Sign-A-Song

1. Jodi Keith Kensinger, Lincoln Grange #914

Exhibition:

Philip Vonada, Penns Valley Grange #158 & Eagle Grange #1

Exhibition:

Tina Keen, Russellville Grange #91

Congratulations to all the winners!

We appreciate all the entries.

For the list of winners with their Grange and County, look in the 2023 Journal of Proceedings.

We hope to see even more entries for the contests next year!

SAVE THE DATE

152nd PA State Grange Session

**October 17-20, 2024
Cranberry Township, PA**

2023 PA State Granger of the Year Wayne Campbell



Since 2017, Wayne Campbell has been at the forefront of the Pennsylvania State Grange. He has put in countless hours and miles across the state attending every event that he was invited to. Under his leadership, the Grange became the leading voice for expanded rural broadband access and common sense solar utilization guidelines. From all of us, congratulations and thank you for your service to agriculture and rural communities.



At the presentation to Wayne, Carrie Nace the Legislative Consultant, read letters from numerous Senators and Congressmen

congratulating Wayne on this achievement.

2023 Grange Legacy Families

There were three Pennsylvania families that were honored at the 2023 National Grange Session in Niagara Falls, NY. The Walker-Vonada-Anzueto Family, Walters-Houser-Scharf/Keen Family, and Walter-Vonada-Anzueto Families were recognized for having 5 generations in the Grange. Congratulations to all these families for all of their years of service to their communities through the generations.

The **Walker-Vonada-Anzueto Family** from Centre County; 4th Generation, Philip Vonada, Rebecca Anzueto; 5th Generation, Christopher Anzueto, Gabriel Anzueto, Madelyn Vonada (not pictured).



The **Walters-Houser-Sharf/Keen Family** from Centre County; 4th Generation, Tina Keen, Norman Houser (not pictured); 5th Generation Sarah Sharf, William Keen (not pictured), Brianna Keen (not pictured).

The **Walters-Vonada-Anzueto Family** from Centre County; 3rd Generation, Thelma Brodzina, Ruth Vonada; 4th Generation, Philip Vonada, Rebecca Anzueto; 5th Generation, Christopher Anzueto, Gabriel Anzueto, Madelyn Vonada (not pictured).



2023 Distinguished Granges

There were a few Granges that received a Distinguished Grange award at the National Grange Session. The Pennsylvania State Grange was awarded a plaque for 5 consecutive years as a Distinguished Grange. Valley Grange #1360 was awarded with a plaque for 10 consecutive years as a Distinguished Grange. Harveys-Aleppo #1444 was also recognized.



Eagle #1 and Russellville #91 were recognized as a Golden Distinguished Grange. To be a Golden Distinguished Grange, your Grange must host or organize a program on Mental Health for your Grange and the community as part of the Rural Minds program.



Debbie Campbell and Matt Espenshade accept the award for the State Grange



Members of Valley #1360 accepting their Distinguished Grange award



Phil Vonada of Eagle #1 accepting their Distinguished Grange award

What is a Distinguished Grange?

The Distinguished Grange program honors Community Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, and excel in the areas of membership, fundraising and service to their communities. The process is simple and your Grange may already qualify with the things you're currently doing.

The Distinguished Grange is a recognition program for Community Granges who fulfill their service and advocacy missions and provide support for members and their community was launched in 2009. The first Distinguished Granges were honored at the 144th Annual National Grange Convention, with a record number of 51 Community Granges and 9 State Granges honored at the 150th Convention in 2016.

National Grange Announces Major Project Award to Help Rural Seniors

During National Session in Niagara Falls, N.Y., the National Grange announced that it received a major grant that will leverage its position as the voice of rural America.

Joan C. Smith, project manager, announced that the National Grange received a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (EADI #30051) for a program entitled “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors.”

During the kickoff event, Smith highlighted the ongoing health crisis in rural America, which encompasses 1 in 5 American citizens. Citing statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, she gave a background on why the National Grange has become involved in engaging rural Americans to help take care of their health.

The National Grange received the PCORI award contract because the Grange is a trusted messenger to and for rural America.

“This program provides local Community Granges the resources to educate and inform their areas about what senior citizens should be doing to prepare for surgeries – before the surgery and when they return home,” Smith said. “There’s also a comprehensive ‘Preparing for My Future’ guide, with questions that any adult should think about. It covers topics from where bank accounts are located and what kind of care you’re willing to have, to who in your community might be able to help you with certain activities post-surgery.”

The program is available at www.seniorsurgeryguides.com, which features over two dozen informational and instructional videos. These include videos on pre-surgery discussions, preparing your home, how to talk to others about your health, and what to do in case of hospitalization. The website also includes sections on finances and financial concerns, dealing with memory loss, and learning how to self-advocate in the healthcare process.

Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director and the campaign’s project leader, believes the National Grange is an ideal organization for the dissemination of this program. “The average rural American needs to drive over 10 miles to reach their nearest doctor, as opposed to their urban counterparts who have less than half that travel. Because of this discrepancy, many rural and small-town residents want to ensure that their time with a surgeon or doctor is well-spent and they can get all of the information they need.”

The National Grange has championed rural Americans since 1867 and has become a leading voice in advocating for better access to healthcare and high-speed internet. “And the two are intertwined,” says Eller. “Especially since the pandemic, tele-health options have become a routine way of interacting with your doctor. However, 47% of rural residents still do not have the benchmark speeds for ‘basic internet’ access.”

The Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors project is designed to be replicable by Community and State Granges, known for being community hubs and meeting spaces throughout the country. Each Grange will have access to videos that they can show in informational community programs and will be able to provide copies of the guides, lessons, etc. to help prepare their community members for the future.

“Everybody has questions before and after surgery,” Smith says. “Our goal is to make it a simpler, less daunting process. Even I have already made adjustments to my home and lifestyle after helping prepare the program.”

Everyone is encouraged to view the program trailer at www.grange.biz/rrss-trailer. For those who wish to know more, please contact Program Manager Joan C. Smith at rrss@grange.org. The National Grange worked in conjunction with consultant doctors, rural citizens, and Grange leaders from around the country in the creation of this program.

National Grange Highlights...



Officers and Delegates of the National Grange pose for their annual photo.



Quilts of Valor recipients and their quilts.



Janet Fishovitz, D&CS Chairperson of Big Knob #2008, accepting the 1st Place certificate for their Community Service Scrapbook.

For the second straight year, the National Grange had a net gain in membership. This is an achievement that hasn't been seen in nearly 7 decades!



President Matt, second delegate Wayne Campbell, and National and State Secretary Debbie Campbell pose for a photo.



Some of the youth at the Silent Disco.



SAVE THE DATE

The next Grange Revival will be held in Torrey, Utah.

...a week in Niagra Falls, NY



Some National Grange attendees visited the Fredonia Grange #1 in New York. Fredonia #1 is the very first Subordinate Grange that was organized by Oliver Hudson Kelley.



The falls were illuminated red, white and blue in honor of Veteran's Day.



PA State Grange Chaplain Jodi Keith Kensinger with Riggs at his first National Grange Session.



Master Matt and California State Grange President, Joe Stefenoni, sharing a laugh.



Jersey cow enthusiasts, Allen & Kay Stiles (MD), are still trying to get Wayne Campbell to switch from Holsteins.



The parade of host region flags during the opening of this year's Session.



Pennsylvania's crew that went to National Grange.

“The Trusted Voice of Rural America”

National Grange Unveils New Biannual Theme

After another year of fraternal growth, new partnerships, and an expanding footprint across the country, National Grange President Betsy E. Huber announced the new 2024 - 2025 theme “Grange: The Trusted Voice of Rural America,” during the 157th annual National Grange Session held last week in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

“Our reputation is growing in DC, in state capitols, and in every town across the country where Granges are active and serving their communities. We should take pride in this fact,” said Huber.

While encouraging the Grange at all levels to use the theme in Grange Month programming, messaging, fair displays, and “everything you do,” she said that the Grange is still coming into its finest hour. Granges can use the theme to take pride in their work as advocates of their communities. Some ideas for using the theme include:

- Holding public community meetings on various topics, including healthcare, rural broadband, and issues directly affecting your communities.
- Using the Grange for public, non-partisan political forums or debates - allow your community to have their voices heard, too.
- Having members of your Grange send resolutions to their State Grange, or resolutions for your town or city councils for improvement in your local area.
- Encouraging members to find new ways to connect to their communities, and recruiting members who want to make a difference on behalf of their entire region.

“On a basic level, our neighbors trust the Grange to deliver great, inexpensive meals



and family-friendly activities,” Huber said. “We want to return to that time in our history when everyone knew the Grange and its good works. And it’s much easier now than it was then, with the internet and social media--with just a little effort we can literally reach millions with our message.”

“I hope our Granges really connect and take ownership of this theme,” said National Grange Communications Director Philip Vonada. “It’s time for our Granges to step up and realize they can - and do - truly make a difference. The incredible thing about how the Grange works is that one voice or idea at the local level can become a part of National Grange policy. We should feel proud of these efforts, knowing that each voice matters, and that your voice can create ripples beyond what we could ever expect.”

The new theme takes effect in January 2024 and will last through 2025. At that time more information regarding the theme will be provided, as well as a kit on using the theme to local Grange programming.

New National Grange President Announced

The National Grange, the country's oldest agricultural and rural service fraternity, has elected its 24th President - Christine "Chris" Hamp of Spokane, Washington.

A member of Tualco and Five Mile Prairie Granges in Washington, Hamp has served as Vice President of the National Grange since 2021, Program Director/Lecturer for four years before that, and has been a National Grange officer for more than a decade.

"Thank you for your trust and honor in electing me as your President," she said.

She is also a proud member of the Board of Directors of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Hamp succeeds Betsy E. Huber, who was elected in 2015 as the first woman in the position in the Grange's history.

Thank you to Sister Betsy Huber for your many years of service and dedication to the Pennsylvania State Grange and the National Grange.

Congratulations to Debbie Campbell for being re-elected as National Grange Secretary.



Save the Date!

PA is hosting the National Grange's

Eastern Regional
Leadership Conference

July 26-28, 2024 in the Capital Area

A graphic with a dark blue background and gold curved borders on the left and right sides. The text is in a white, elegant script font. The text reads: "Save the Date! PA is hosting the National Grange's Eastern Regional Leadership Conference July 26-28, 2024 in the Capital Area".

Snow Shoveling Safety

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/snow-shoveling>
<https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/safety-tips-when-shoveling-snow/>

Shoveling snow can mean taking on more than your body can handle. And ignoring signs that you need to take a break from shoveling may prove to be harmful.

Health care providers at Mayo Clinic Health System want to ensure your safety as you clear driveways and sidewalks, so here are some tips for safe snow shoveling:

Be heart conscious. If you have a history of heart problems and are currently inactive, it's best to speak with your health care provider before shoveling. Additionally, don't shovel while smoking, eating or after consuming caffeine; this may place extra stress on your heart.

Dress Warm. Wear several layers of clothing. You can always remove a layer if needed.

Drink plenty of water. Remaining hydrated during cold-weather months is just as important as during warm-weather months.

Warm up your arms and legs. Stretch your arms and legs before beginning to shovel. You are less likely to injure muscles when they are warm.

Take it slow. Pace yourself and take breaks if you need to. Safety is more important than speed.



Protect your back. Bend at the knees, not the back. Lift with your legs bent, stand with your feet hip-width apart for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Also, don't pick up too much snow at once; use a small shovel or fill up a large shovel no more than half way.

Shovel while snow is fresh. Freshly fallen snow is lighter than snow that has started melting.

Listen to your body. This is the most important snow shoveling tip. If something feels abnormal, or if you're tired, it's time to stop.

If you are experiencing an emergency, call 911 immediately.

In addition to possible heart strain from pushing a heavy snow blower, be safe with tips from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, including:

- If the blower jams, turn it off.
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts.
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space.
- Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running.
- Never leave it unattended when it is running.

SNOW BLOWER SAFETY TIPS

FOLLOW THE TIPS BELOW TO PREVENT AN INJURY WHILE USING A SNOW BLOWER

1. AVOID FUMES

Do not start the snowblower indoors, even if the door is open. Gas-powered equipment will produce dangerous carbon monoxide and must be started in a well-ventilated area.

2. DIRECT THE SNOW

Make sure the chute, where the snow shoots out of, is directing the snow where it can't cause any damage or injuries to others around you!

3. AVOID LOOSE CLOTHING

Avoid wearing loose clothing that can get caught in any moving parts of the snowblower.

4. WEAR HEARING PROTECTION

Gas-powered equipment is loud and can cause hearing damage.

5. CLEAR THE AREA

Before the snow gets too deep, remove doormats, sleds, boards, wires, newspapers, and anything else from the area to avoid clogs and damage to the machine. *Pro Tip* Be proactive in clearing the area... remove any objects before the snow begins!

2024 Farm Show Preview



“Connecting Our Communities”

The Butter Sculpture. The Sheep to Shawl Contest. Breaded Mushrooms. Milkshakes.

Mention these words to any Pennsylvanian, and they will immediately know what you’re talking about – an annual event which is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the country.

The 108th Pennsylvania Farm Show will be held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, January 6-13, 2024. With more than 10,000 competitive events spread over 35 departments, there is something for visitors of all ages and interests. For many, the hands-on activities are the chance to get up close and truly connect with production agriculture. It is a unique showcase of a multi-faceted industry which employs nearly half a million people and contributes \$132.5 billion to Pennsylvania’s economy each year.

State Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding announced the 2024 Farm Show theme is “Connecting Our Communities.” Redding noted that this theme “speaks to the power of agriculture to connect our diverse communities in Pennsylvania. It’s about nourishing our communities, enriching our relationships, and strengthening the Commonwealth for generations to come.”

Matt Espenshade, Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, said Grange members can certainly relate to this year’s theme. Much like agriculture, the Grange has been ‘connecting our communities’ through grassroots advocacy and rural service projects for more than 150 years.

“The Farm Show is a celebration of Pennsylvania agriculture. The abundance we enjoy comes from the tireless efforts and rugged hands of many, all working together to

provide the food, fuel and fiber we depend on,” said Espenshade.

While attending the Farm Show, please visit the Pennsylvania State Grange booth located in Main Hall. Our popular cookbooks, 150th anniversary ornaments and commemorative booklets will be available for purchase while supplies last. A miniature version of the statewide Heritage Quilt Trail will again be a highlight, and an accompanying scavenger hunt will allow participants to learn interesting details about the quilt designs and backstory.

Competitive Events, Commercial Events, and the Food Court are open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm January 6-12. They are open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on January 13.

For more information, including a daily schedule of events, visit the website:

www.farmshow.pa.gov

Individuals looking to earn continuing education credits on the application of pesticides can do so by simply attending the Pennsylvania State Grange’s educational program during the Farm Show. The program will be led by Ashley Isaacson, a Penn State Extension Field and Forage Educator. The program will be held on Thursday, January 11 from 10:00am – 12:00pm in the Monongahela Room which is upstairs near the McClay Street entrance. This is open to the public.

2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show
Pesticide Applicator Meeting
Hosted by the Pennsylvania State Grange

Join us for an educational session and the ability to earn points for your pesticide applicator license.
Pre-registration is not required, but preferred.

2 Core Credits & 2 Category Credits
Thursday, January 11, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m.
PA Farm Show Complex
2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg
Monongahela Room

Granges in Action....

WALKER #786

Phyllis Hackenberger who is 101 years old, received her membership certificate for 75 years of service in the Grange. Vera Supplee presented Phyllis with the letter and certificate. Phyllis became a member of the Walnut Grange in 1948 and transferred to Walker Grange in 1972, where she served as the pianist for many years.



GRASSROOTS #2112



Members of Grassroots Grange of Indiana County receiving their charter.

Welcome to the Grange family!

HAYFIELD #800



Hayfield Grange has coordinated with 12 other local organizations to present dictionaries to the third-

grade students in the PennCrest School District. The dictionaries are presented to Cambridge Springs Elementary, Maplewood Elementary and Saegertown Elementary students. In 2022, "Operation Warm Toes" was conducted in conjunction with the dictionary project collecting socks for kindergarten through sixth grade students. A total of 292 pair of socks, 58 pair of gloves, 32 hats, and 27 hat/glove sets were collected.



BAILEYVILLE #1991

At the Baileyville Grange #1991 annual Corn Boil, as the 2023 Citizens of the Year they honored the Baileyville Granger Veterans



as part of the National Grange Patriots Program. Seated left to right - Bob Oliver (Korea), Joe Fye (Vietnam), Mearle Barto (Korea). Standing left to right - John Roan (Vietnam), Larry Moore (Vietnam), Eugene Moore (Afghanistan). Not pictured - Larry Harpster (Vietnam), Ben Johnston (Vietnam). Each Veteran received a certificate from National Grange, an American flag decal, and our sincere thanks for their service.

VIRGINVILLE #1832

On November 12, Virginville Grange held a benefit bingo for a community member who is battling cancer.

During the bingo, there was a special Thanksgiving game which benefitted Keystone Military families. Bingo participants were also asked to bring canned goods for the military families as well.



HICKORY #1285



Hickory Grange held a Breakfast with Santa at their hall in early December. At the Breakfast with Santa, they also drew the winner of their Quilt/Gift Card Raffle. Prizes included in the raffle were a Quilt made by Dr. William Depp-Hutchinson, a Palumbo's gift card as well as Sheetz, Walmart and Martin's gift cards.

HAYFIELD #800

Hayfield Grange recognized members for continuous membership at the November 11th meeting following a tureen dinner. Lecturer Chester Tau presented the background of the establishment of Armistice Day, now Veterans Day. Back row L-R, John Hotchkiss, 65 years; Jonathan Merritt and David Merritt, 10 years; front row left to right, Denise Clark, 55 years; Alverna Hotchkiss, 65 years; Debra Merritt, 10 years; and Nancy Poorbaugh, 60 years.



VALLEY #1360



On November 4, Valley Grange held a Community Family Fun Day! They had a great day educating our community about the Grange while having fun and helping to raise funds for a local child care center.



Subordinate Spotlight

Girard Grange #788 Clearfield County

Nestled in the wilds of elk country, Girard Grange #788 continues to be the center of their community as they work at connecting themselves to serve their neighbors. Located in the mountains west of Lecontes Mills, Clearfield County, it has become a center of community events. My first visit to Girard Grange was one of the more unique meetings I have had the privilege to attend and was a first for me – I can say I have never attended a Grange meeting while wild deer grazed just feet outside the window of the hall.

Organized on September 16, 1884, by Deputies Elisha M. Davis and James C. Bloom, Girard Grange would be chartered on January 5, 1885 with 18 members. Among the first officers were Isaac Smith, Master/President and Louisa Shope, Secretary.

In 1909 the current Grange Hall was dedicated and stands as a proud part of their community. Since the construction of the Grange Hall, members have taken an active stance in their community and have opened their hall for many types of social gatherings including reunions, parties, dances, festivals, and meals.



As Girard Grange continues to grow into the new year, it is led by President Chris Maney. The members have embraced the traditions of the past as they look forward to the future. They continue to open their hall regularly to the community and have worked at sharing the benefits they've reaped with those around them.

An event that has become a new tradition for them is the annual Oktoberfest and Apple Butter Boil. The Oktoberfest and soup sale has been held for a number of years and features homemade soups and desserts, along with activities and games for those attending.

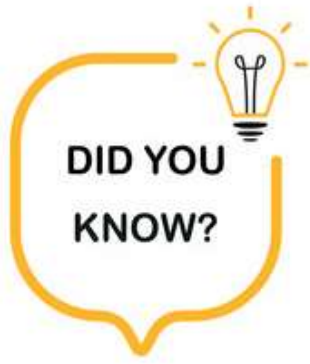


The Apple Butter Boil started as a family reunion, but four years ago, in 2019, members of Girard Grange partnered with the family to hold it during their Oktoberfest. The rain or shine event now unites friends and family as people arrive from near and far to participate in the annual event.

Making apple butter is not a one-day process – Friday is spent preparing apples and Saturday is spent making the apple butter for pick-up on Sunday. Each year between 150 and 180 pints of apple butter are produced and sold. Having never been to an event like this before, I quickly learned about the “secrets” of making apple butter under the watchful eyes of the elders who allowed their family tradition to become a Grange event.

In addition to their Oktoberfest and Apple Butter Boil, Girard Grange hosts a community picnic each July, and regularly holds meals to benefit those in need.

As Girard Grange continues to grow, they are an example of how a Grange can overcome obstacles to reorganize and overcome. They have not allowed the past to define them, but instead look forward to how they can be a uniting force within their community.



National Grange Sessions in Pennsylvania

The annual session of the National Grange has met in Pennsylvania six (almost seven) times: Philadelphia (1886), Harrisburg (1897), Pittsburgh (1923), Harrisburg (1937), Lancaster (1979) and Harrisburg (1995). The 2020 session was planned to convene in Valley Forge but the COVID pandemic forced this session to be held virtually rather than in person. The National Grange has not re-scheduled its meeting in Valley Forge.

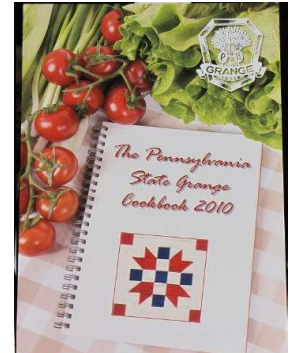


MARKETPLACE

Cookbooks

www.pagrang.org/grange-store

We have less than 3000
copies of the
150th Anniversary edition.



Grange Cookbook Classics

Pierogi Casserole

1 pound uncooked lasagna noodles
2 cups mashed potatoes
1 tablespoon finely minced onion
salt and pepper to taste

½ cup butter, softened
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 tablespoon parsley

Cook noodles using package directions; drain. Combine potatoes, onion, salt and pepper in bowl; mix well. Arrange 1/3 of the noodles in a 9x13 inch baking pan. Spread with 1/2 of the potato mixture, dot with 1/3 of the butter and sprinkle with cheddar cheese. Continue to layer with 1/3 of the noodles, spread with remaining potato mixture, dot with 1/3 of the butter and sprinkle with mozzarella cheese, ending with remaining noodles. Melt remaining butter in small saucepan. Drizzle over noodles; sprinkle with parsley. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

James Hoffman, Perry Valley #1804



This recipe can be found in the 1992 edition of the Pennsylvania State Grange Cookbook.



Welcome New Members

Progress #96

Jason Bair
Christine Bair
Teaghan Bair
Meagan Bair
Penns Valley #158
Ella Smith
Brad Wingard
Forest #853
Travis Daniels
Centre Hill #885
Isabelle Bryan
California #941
Michael Stender
Fairdale #1157
Patricia Aiken
Robert Aiken
Marilyn Burton
Harmony #1201
Alicia Chambers
Tyler Chambers

Roseville #1290

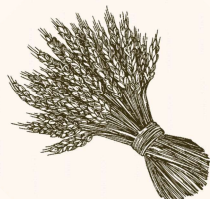
Carla Sweitzer
Sandy Powell
Arta Emerick
Jackie Limrick
Jim Ray
CJ Ray
Mike Anderson
Tammy Anderson
Georgeanna Thomas
Jamie Linder-muth
Tessa Linder-muth
Denise Messer
Valley #1360
Heidi Christophel
Paul Christophel
Karen Kann
Kathey Kennedy Meyer
Denny Mackey
Faith Mackey

Harveys-Aleppo #1444

Prem Trollope
Martin Raoul Gas
Tiffany Hall
Ginger Hill #1549
Julie Kingsley
Ontelaunee #1617
Joe Doerr
Katrina Doerr
Plumsteadville #1738
Edna White
Shelby Labs
David Harper
Trexlerstown #1755
Bernadette Comfort
Pioneer #1777
Tracey Lutz
Red Lion #1781
Diane Platts
Steve Platts

Shermanata #1796

George Fishel
Virginville #1832
Nelson Zook
Fleetwood #1839
Cindy Oesterle
Frankfort Springs #1989
Abby Angus
Walker #2007
Michele Peese
Barbara Hosterman
Big Knob #2008
Shannon Cooper
Joyce Garvin
Julia Warden
Cindy Weber
Alexis Cooper
Samantha Patton
Cody Roper



In Memoriam

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servant...”

Progress #96

Michael Confer
Hartslog Valley #375
Blanch Harnish
New Vernon #608
Harry Elder Sr
Walker #786
Joyce Hack
Linda Pray
Centre Hill #885
Thelma Pase
Edward Fisch

Watson #1068

Freda Moats
Beech Grove #1089
Leroy Spoor
Harmony #1201
Joanne Salsgiver
Wesley #1675
Gladys Coxson
Harmony #1692
Elizabeth Longenbach

Red Lion #1781

Hazel Markey
Virginville #1832
Anna Mae Weiss
Fleetwood #1839
Glen Epting
Marion #1853
Constance Klinger
South Buffalo #1908
Jane Snider
Unionville #1971
Helen Voegler

Happy Birthday!

Pioneer #1777
Daisy Pensinger
Feb. 1939



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-2024

JANUARY

- 1: Happy New Year
- 6-13: Pennsylvania Farm Show
- 31: 4th Quarter Dues Report Due

FEBRUARY

- 19: President's Day
- 24: Regional Leadership Conference;
Scrubgrass Grange Hall

MARCH

- 9: Regional Leadership Conference;
Eagle Grange Hall
- 10: Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 31: Easter

APRIL

- 22: Earth Day
- 30: 1st Quarter Dues Report Due
(Assessment & Junior Dues)

MAY

- 1: Scholarship Deadline
- 2: Penn State Ag Trustee Election
- 27: Memorial Day

JUNE

- 14: Flag Day
- 28-30: Youth Camp; Camp Sylvan Hills
- 30-July 6: Junior Camp; Camp Sylvan Hills

JULY

- 4: Independence Day
- 18-21: Family Festival; Centre County
Fairgrounds
- 26-28: Eastern Regional Conference;
Pennsylvania (TBD)
- 31: 2nd Quarter Dues Report Due
(Bonds Due)

AUGUST

- 13-15: Ag Progress Days;
Pennsylvania Furnace

Pennsylvania State Grange

Pennsylvania Grange News

26 CJEMS Lane

Mifflintown, PA 17059

What can the Grange do for you?

National Grange Benefits

- Wyndham Hotel: Members save up to 20%
- Hertz/Avis/Budget Rental Car
- CVS Caremark: Savings up to 50% with CVS RxSavings Plus Card
- National Grange Travel Center
- Office Depot/Office Max/Shop.com
- TSYS Merchant Solutions

Pennsylvania State Grange Benefits

- American Income Life: All members receive a \$3000 Accidental Death Benefit
- Avis Car Rental: Discounted Member Rates
- BJ's Wholesale Club: Save \$15 on Basic, or \$30 on Rewards Membership, plus 1 free month
- Tickets at Work: Offers discounts on movie tickets, concerts, travel, theme parks, and shopping.



Contact the Pennsylvania State Grange office with any questions about becoming a member...and start enjoying the many benefits of being a Grange Member... immediately!!!

Pennsylvania State Grange
www.pagrange.org
(717) 737-8855

The Pennsylvania State Grange also offers scholarships and interest free loans.