



Pennsylvania Grange News

July/August 2023



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... NEWARK, N. J.



America's Rural Energy Coalition

7



19

*Subordinate Spotlight:
Plumsteadville #1738*



State Session Speaker

34

Jeff Winton

Pennsylvania Grange News
26 CJEMS Ln.
Mifflintown, PA 17059
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The Master's Station

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

WHO CAN SAY “NO” TO GOING TO THE FAIR?

Right now, on farms and in backyards across the Commonwealth, children and adults alike are planning for an event that may be months away. It is “Fair Season”, and hours of preparation for mere minutes in the show ring or on the main stage have already started. To be honest, even I have made a mental note of where our best first cutting alfalfa is stacked in the mow, in anticipation of entering a sample in the Field & Forage contest.

As you are reading this, children are in their daily routine of brushing their project rabbits until silky smooth, carefully measuring out specialty feed for their pampered pigs, or teaching a stubborn heifer calf to walk with grace and elegance. Any seasoned exhibitor will tell you this: blue ribbons aren't won on show day, they are won during the weeks and months of preparation beforehand.

My earliest memory of my local fair would be back to when I was about 11 years old, standing in line with my two younger sisters and my grandparents, waiting to get a chocolate milkshake from the Elizabethtown Grange stand. Little did I know that one day, years down the road, I would not only join the Elizabethtown Grange, but serve as the subordinate Master for 23 years.



Sawyer Straub is getting his pigs fair ready.

Pennsylvania will host 110 fairs in 62 counties this year. Each fair is unique, and a reflection of their supporting community or county. Every rural county in Pennsylvania, except one, has at least one fair. Often, these multi-day events are the largest tourism draw of the year for the local community. In this state alone, fairs attract 5.5 million visitors annually. There are activities, attractions, exhibits and special events for all ages of fairgoers. Many attendees wait all year long for those special fair treats like deep fried Oreos, funnel cakes, cotton candy, and almost any food you can think of, but on a stick.

It's not often where a community comes together like during fair time. It is a golden opportunity for civic, church, youth and non-profit groups to increase their visibility, share their mission, and invite new members. Likewise, ambulance and fire company auxiliaries depend on fairs to raise funds to maintain equipment and other necessities to serve the community. Local businesses and vendors showcase their wares and services, making a lasting impact on their customer base.

The average fair in Pennsylvania has been running for 89 years. And while their local communities have certainly evolved, fairs still maintain their roots in agriculture and the home. Agricultural exhibits are offered at 97 percent of Pennsylvania fairs, and 91 percent offer craft activities and contests. Amazing talents are on display in areas such as photography, wood

working, needlepoint, floral arrangement, vegetable gardening, home canning and baking. It is also a chance to step back in time, seeing antique tractors, hear the rhythmic puttering of a hit-and-miss engine, and gain a greater appreciation of modern farming practices at an old-time threshing demonstration.

For many residents, attending these harvest festivals and equipment shows is their only chance to get up-close to today's agriculture. With less than 2 percent of the population involved in production agriculture, fairs become a prime opportunity to share the story of farming, educate children, and connect producers with consumers.

As you know, the connections between Grange and fairs run deep. Decades ago, the Grange was often the center of the local community. So, it is no surprise that Grange fairs came into existence, and are still active today. Whether it's going to watch the ATV drag races at the Harmony Grange Fair in Clearfield County, or entering the hay bale decorating contest at Middletown Grange Fair in Bucks County, there's guaranteed to be something unforgettable during your time at a Grange fair. Of course, I'd be remiss not to mention the Centre County Grange Fair, where the fair becomes a home away from home. With 1,000 tents and 1,500 spaces for RV's or campers, it's the only remaining tenting fair in America, and the pride of the Centre County Pomona Grange. Hosting these community fairs truly sets the Grange apart from other agricultural organizations.

So, if you can't get potential new members to come to your meetings, go to where they are! My first true interaction with our local Grange was during the fair after graduating college, as I was looking for a way to get involved in the community. I stopped by that same milkshake stand and "Grange Information Booth," where I learned Grange was more than just milkshakes.



Evan and Alan Espenshade with the first ribbons they ever won during the 2010 Elizabethtown Fair.

I encourage subordinate and Pomona Granges to consider sponsoring a special event or activity at your local, community or county fair. Ideas include hosting a coloring contest, tractor parade, or judging a particular baking contest. Perhaps your subordinate can financially support the fair queen contest, or the supreme champion of a livestock or dairy show. Display contests are a highlight of almost every fair, and a way to educate the public about Grange, agriculture issues and challenges. Remember that it takes year-round commitment for fairs to happen, so volunteer to be a Grange representative on the local fair board committee. Fairs are a cornerstone of the community, and truly an American tradition.

By the way... you haven't truly lived until you've dunked pumpkin funnel cake into a vanilla milkshake from the Elizabethtown Grange. See you at the fair!

Fraternally,
Master Matt



Chaplain's Message

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

Happy Summer from central Pennsylvania!

We are only a few days from the official summer kick off (Memorial Day weekend) and from my baby's first birthday! It is hard to believe that our little Riglets (my nickname for Riggs) is going to be ONE!?! Where in the world did that year go?



Country music sensation Granger Smith announced that he is leaving the country music scene for a life in ministry and has been going to seminary for classes from the last couple of years. As I am listening to this, I am intrigued and fascinated with this new undertaking, and I had to listen to one of his sermons. He is outstanding and inspirational. If you have never heard him preach, I suggest you look him up on YouTube. I highly suggest his sermon from April 23, 2023, at Adventure Church in Delaware, Ohio. One of the most important things from his sermon that I took away was his question: How do you know if your faith is real, if it's never been tested? As I pondered this question, the story of Job came to mind.

We know from his familiar story from Scripture that Job lost everything... his family, his livestock, his servants, and he even ended up with sores from his feet to the top of his head. Yet, never once cursed God or spoke ill of him. Instead, he remained faithful despite his friends and wife telling him to give in and curse God. When Job came near a breaking point, God spoke to his questions with questions of "Where were you when I created etc ? And Job's conclusion was it was all so magnificent

and beyond his understanding.

Most, if not all of us have had our faith tested from time to time. It is not easy to remain faithful and submit the situations to God. If we look back at Job, I think you would agree, none of us can match the tragedies and losses he withstood. Doesn't that make us put things we complain about in a different perspective? Looking forward we do not know what is ahead in life, yet if we pause and look to Job's life as a guide, it seems that we too can hang in there and make it through, one day, one hour and one minute at a time. That same God that got Job through his trials is still here for you and me today, and when we pause and think, He and His ways are still too magnificent for us to understand. His love is always right there with us, even when it does not feel like it.

“
A perfect summer
day is when
the sun is shining,
the breeze is
blowing, the birds
are singing,
and the lawnmower
is broken.
JAMES DENT
GH

As you go through this summer season, I encourage you to live each day to the fullest. Enjoy good times around the bonfire with friends and family; listen to the birds chirping and hummingbirds flying from your front porch swing; dip your toes in the

ocean (or lake, if that is closer to you) and listen to the waves splash on the shore. Make beautiful memories this summer. In a world full of roses, be a sunflower - be the strongest, tallest, and brightest bloom in the field.

God Bless & Love Always,
Jodi Keith Kensinger



PA Grange Partnerships for the Betterment of Agriculture and Rural Communities



**America's
Rural Energy
Coalition**

The Pennsylvania State Grange commented on solar energy development at the America's Rural Energy Coalition (AREC) national conference, which was held May 3-4 in Canonsburg, Washington County. State Grange Master Matt Espenshade and Legislative Director Carrie Nace joined National Grange President Betsy Huber at the event. The Grange highlighted the critical role agriculture and rural communities will play in energy development and utilization.

“Renewable energy sources have been developing at a rapid pace, and many communities hosting these new endeavors are faced with unprecedented challenges in unfamiliar fields. It is a scenario that played out across the Marcellus shale regions of Pennsylvania, and beyond,” Matt Espenshade said.

With no national forum in place to discuss potential benefits and learned experiences associated with this and other similar energy sources, in 2017, a coalition was formed. It has since become a source of information and insight in effectively developing and implementing clean energy technologies. Stakeholders include representatives of wind, nuclear, solar and natural gas industries, among others. The National Grange has signed on to their stated mission, and has served as an advocate on behalf of rural communities potentially impacted by these emerging practices.

Liberty Grange #1780 member Bonnie Casselberry spoke on behalf of the

Pennsylvania State and National Grange on the final day of the conference. Casselberry shared the Grange's policies regarding solar expansion. She said that while it has tremendous potential in rural communities, the Grange is concerned many landowners considering solar projects do not fully realize the commitment they are undertaking. Casselberry cautioned against utilizing prime farmland for its development.

“We need regulations that will ensure that land is restored to previous or better condition upon the termination of a solar contract. There needs to be bonding to protect the landowner from any corrections that will need to be made in the years ahead,” Casselberry said.

“Farmers consider themselves stewards of the land. They work at making it better and take the responsibility of that land very seriously. Sometimes that even means to let it rest for a while. We want to work for a clean environment. We want to find clean, practical and safe energy solutions and look forward to partnerships that will help facilitate that goal that are fair to all parties involved.”

The Pennsylvania State Grange is committed to the issue of solar development both from the development side on how it impacts prime farmland as well as the consumer protection side of those being approached by companies in rural Pennsylvania. The Grange has formed a subcommittee on solar development. If you are interested in being a part of the group, please email Legislative Director Carrie Nace at carrie@nsallc.com.



The Lecturer's Scroll

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

Greetings from South Central PA!

Summer is here and I hope that you and your families are enjoying the warm weather and all the fun it brings with it. I hope to see many of you at the State Grange's summer events – camps, Family Festival, and more.

State Grange Session

Summer is the perfect time to work on your Lecturer's reports and entries for the State Session contests. Please refer to the colored blocks for an "at a glance" summary of the contests. Details for all of the Lecturer's contests can be found in the 2022-23 Guide to Contests and Programs on the Lecturer's page of the State Grange website. Please check the Lecturer's Letter (also on the Lecturer's page of the State Grange website) for other updates. If you are unable to access these files on the website and have not received the packet from your Secretary, please contact me at (717) 512-1261 or jnauss89@gmail.com and I will make sure you receive a copy.

All reports, scrapbooks, and contest entries can be emailed to jnauss89@gmail.com or mailed to:

Jenn Nauss
10 West Schoolside Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Quilts of Valor

We will again be holding a Quilts of Valor presentation at this year's State Grange Session, on Thursday evening, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. We are accepting names of Grange members who are active duty veterans



Recipients of the Quilts of Valor at the 2022 National Grange Session in Sparks, Nevada

who have not yet received a Quilt of Valor. They must be veterans and in attendance on Thursday evening, October 19. Due to time constraints, we will be accepting the first 10 names received. Please contact me at jnauss89@gmail.com or (717) 512-1261 if you or someone you know is deserving of a Quilt of Valor.

Program Ideas:

August

- Third Week – Friendship Week – Plan some fun, team-building activities for your Grange members to strengthen bonds of friendship. Focus on the importance of communication and working together.

September

- September 18 – the Pennsylvania State Grange celebrates its 150th Birthday. Hold a celebration at your Grange and finalize your plans to attend the anniversary session in Morgantown.

2023 Lecturer's Contests "At A Glance"

Lecturer's Reports and Scrapbooks

Membership Classes: Up to 50 members; 51-99 members; 100 or more members; Pomona

Submit by **September 15th**.

First Place Reports - \$10 / First Place Scrapbooks - \$50

Creative Connections

Division A – Traditional Open House / Division B – Other Designated Project

Membership Classes: Up to 50 members; 51-99 members; 100 or more members; Pomona

Submit by **September 15th**.

First Place – Framed Certificate

Pen in Hand

Classes:

- Poetry (300 words maximum)
- Short Story (1,500 words maximum)
- The Grange of the Future – If I could change something about the Grange, it would be... (500 words maximum)

Submit by **September 15th**.

First Place in each class - \$10

Design a Program Contest

Lecturers design programs as one of the primary responsibilities of their office. Pennsylvania Lecturers / Program Directors are doing amazing work and should be recognized for their creative ideas.

Submit by **September 15th**.

First Place - \$30
Second Place - \$20
Third Place - \$10

VIRTUAL Photography

Classes:

- Bridges
- Wildlife
- Landscape
- People
- Celebrations

Submit *virtually* by **September 15th**.

First Place in each class - \$10
Best of Show - \$20

Art

Classes:

- Nature/Animals
- People
- Still Life

Bring to State Session

First Place in each class - \$10
Best of Show - \$20

Lecturer's Grant

Quality educational programs can be critical tools for our Granges and our ability to reach our members and those in the community. We recognize that these programs can be financially taxing and that not all Granges have the financial resources to plan such programs. The Lecturer's Department will sponsor a grant of \$100 for this purpose.

Submit applications by **September 15th**.

My Favorite Anything

Classes:

- Wood
- Plastic
- Fabric / Material / Yarn
- Miscellaneous

Bring to State Session

First Place in each class - \$10
Best of Show - \$20



Family Activities

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

Hi Everyone!

I hope all is well and you are able to enjoy the beautiful summer weather. I'm sure everyone is busy with their gardens both flower and vegetable and their summer vacations, but don't forget to take some time to work on your contest entries for State Session. We have some new contests this year – so all you crafty people out there why not try your hand and talents at tin punching, belts or stenciling. We can't forget our bakers – this year's baking contests are carrot cake, gingerbread cookies and chocolate fudge. YUM YUM! Don't forget about our other contests too – quilts, quilt block, afghans/embroidery/cross stitch/plastic canvas and cotton thread (doilies and centerpieces).

There were some questions about judging – All entries must go thru Pomona judging to be able to come to State Session. The only exception to this is if your county doesn't have a Pomona, there are only a few counties like that. If your Grange is in one of those counties then the Subordinate Grange entries can come right to State Session. If you have any further questions, please refer to the Family Activities section of the Guide to Contests.

Don't forget to sell your Quilt Raffle tickets for a chance to win this year's beautiful quilt and other prizes. Please mail all unsold tickets and/or ticket stubs along with your check to Evelyn. The Family Activities committee is still collecting canceled stamps. Please leave a wide paper border around the stamps when cutting them off the envelopes. We will collect them at State Session. This is an easy way for all of our members to be involved in helping others.

By the time you receive this edition of the PGN, Family Festival will have taken place. Due to my work schedule I was unable to attend but I hope everyone there had a great time. I know I always do when I'm able to be there. A big Thank You to Wayne & Debbie Campbell and all the other volunteers for making the delicious meals for everyone to enjoy. Also a big Thank You to all the workshop leaders. Thank you for all your time and energy in putting together great workshops.

Ag Progress Days are coming in August. If anyone is available to help sell quilt raffle tickets and cookbooks and to just greet people and let them know about the Grange and what we do – please contact the State Office to sign up for a time.

Have a great summer, but don't forget to take a moment out of your busy lives and schedules to just stop and smell the flowers or enjoy a beautiful sunset or just take in this beautiful world that we call home. God is Good!

See you all at State Session with lots of contest entries.

Fraternally,
Cindy Schlegel

Please mail all unsold tickets &
ticket stubs to:

Evelyn Cottrell
750 Cottrell Rd
Thompson, PA 18465



Membership News

Norman Houser, Membership Director
publicrelations@pagrange.org

Greetings from Central Pennsylvania!

My name is Norman Houser and it is my pleasure to be the new Membership Director for the Pennsylvania State Grange. Grange has always been a part of my life. I had my start as a member of the Junior Grange and later as a member of Union Grange #325. I have been a regular contributor to the National Magazine Good Day! as the author of the "Along the Way..." column.

Growing up, my mother always told me: "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." As a kid, I never understood her, but over the years, I've realized how true her words were. First impressions mean everything.

I want you to quickly answer this question "What is the Grange?" Does an answer immediately pop to mind or are you struggling to find the answer to that question?

One of the most important tools any Grange member can have is an elevator speech. This is a short speech – usually only 30 to 60 seconds long – which answers the question: "What is the Grange?" This is the easiest way to capture new members – if you are excited about the Grange, that excitement will transfer to others.



And the best part of an elevator speech is YOU. YOU make it

unique. YOU make it exciting. YOU make it a part of YOUR Grange experience. YOU make the difference.

I encourage you to create an elevator speech so when you are asked "What is the Grange?" you have an instant reply you can share. Remember, this brief contact may be the only chance you have to share the Grange with others.

What is the Grange?

Mark your calendars: Penn State's Ag Progress Days is almost upon us and the Pennsylvania State Grange will have a booth at the annual event. Ag Progress Days will be held August 8-10 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center (2710 West Pine Grove Road, Pennsylvania Furnace). Show hours run Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. We would be more than willing to have your help at the booth, please contact me if you are interested in helping.

One of my goals over the next year is to visit as many of the Granges as possible and to see your Grange in action. If you'd like me to visit your Grange, present a program, or attend your Grange event, please let me know – I look forward to visiting with you.

Fraternally,
Norman Houser



Youth & Young Adults

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

Greetings from the Pennsylvania State Grange Youth Team! We are anxiously preparing for state camp. By the time you are reading this, the camp will be over and a new team will have been selected. We wish to thank our outgoing royalty for all of their energy and dedication to the Grange over the past year. YOU ROCK!

Logen Smith, Youth Ambassador

Hello, My name is Logen Smith and my time as the Youth Ambassador was a very out of normal experience for me; however, it was also some of the most fun I've ever had. It was fun meeting a whole bunch of different people and talking to them about the Grange. My favorite time as ambassador was during the Farm Show. We attended the banquet and was able to spend time with everyone. Overall, my experience of being ambassador has been fun as well as a step forward with my public speaking.

Bryce Danko, Youth Ambassador

Hello. My name is Bryce Danko and I was honored to serve as the 2022-2023 Pennsylvania State Grange Youth Ambassador. I was given the title at Youth Camp at the end of June 2022. I had the opportunity to attend Family Festival, but I was only able to attend on Saturday and Sunday. However, I made the best of the time while I was there, whether it was socializing with other Grangers or losing in a cornhole tournament. It was a great time. I was off for a couple of months until State Session was approaching. Logen and I worked together to create the drill, and with a few minor changes, it worked out very well. I was again able to meet new Grangers and reconvene with some Grangers I've known my whole life. We got to go bowling for our youth party, and we all had a blast. It was also my first time seeing

a Pennsylvania State Grange election, so this was another unique first-time experience. We have our royalty trip coming up June 13-14th, but I am not able to attend as I am running to be a Pennsylvania FFA State Officer. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as the 2022-2023 PA State Grange Ambassador. I would like to thank all of the officers and members for their continued support of the Grange Youth Department. I would also like to thank my parents and grandparents as well as my sister for all of their support over the last year. Once again, thank you all.

Charles Wilkins, Young Patron

Wow what a year. It has been a true honor to be a part of the Pennsylvania State Grange Youth Team. After being named the state's Outstanding Young Patron, I have had the honor of representing the Pennsylvania State Grange at a number of events. However, my time was cut short on some of the things I was able to do because my family had to make the difficult decision to move back to our home state of Texas to care for our aging parents. It was a great honor to attend the State Grange session and be the youth Master as we presented the third and fourth degrees to visiting patrons. Being able to learn the meanings behind our ritual and instill those values in the younger youth and all who attended was a really great experience.

In January, I had the opportunity to be a part of a long-standing Pennsylvania tradition- the Pennsylvania Farm Show. This was probably by far my favorite experience as a member of the youth team. Setting aside all my nerves, I was granted the opportunity to present the opening declaration during the Farm Show's opening ceremonies. I had a great



Bryce Danko, Charles (Glenn) Wilkins and Logen Smith at the PA Preferred Reception at the Farm Show in January.

time volunteering in the Valley Grange #1360 famous milkshake booth at the Farm Show and also taking time to meet folks in the State Grange booth. Spreading the knowledge of Grange to people across the state made me extremely proud to be a Granger. While my time with PA Grange may have been shorter than I would have liked, I am looking forward to continuing the great work of the Grange in Texas and sharing some of the things I learned in Pennsylvania with other Granges near me. Thank you to the PA State Grange leadership for allowing me the privilege of becoming a part of your history through the services provided through the State Youth team.

Youth Team Sponsorship

If your subordinate Grange would like to sponsor a member of the Youth Officer Team at the upcoming State Session, please fill out the form below. Remember, only one sponsor vest will be given per \$100 donation. If you have any questions regarding sponsoring a Youth Officer please email youth@pagrange.org.

Thank you,
Jen and Lindsay



Youth Officer Team Sponsorship

Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I/We would like to sponsor _____ office.

Select one:

_____ \$100 donation to sponsor a member of the Youth Team, receive a supporter vest, size: _____

_____ \$60 donation to sponsor a member of the Youth Team

Please send this form and sponsorship to: Jennifer Danko, 22 Twins Ave., Newport, PA 17074





Deaf & Community Service

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

“People are the most precious resource. Treat them with dignity and respect.”

A dear friend sent me that quote when I was going through a time when I felt unneeded, unwanted, and completely unappreciated by some of those around me. In the time since, that quote has resurfaced in my thoughts often – particularly as I think of community service projects.

That quote to me has a twofold meaning.

- 1.) How are we treating our fellow Grangers? Are we following God's Word in treating them with respect? Do we take the time to tell our members “Thank you” for a job well done?
- 2.) When we conduct a community service project, are we treating the recipients with the compassion and kindness they deserve or are we looking down at them and judging them?

As Christ tells us in Matthew 25:35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Christ does not say to only help people who look like us, think like us, act like us, or believe the same as us. As you continue all your wonderful works, be reminded of how we are fulfilling His Word and showing His Love.

THANK YOU to all the Granges who have sent funds in response to our appeal. We would not be able to do our good works without your support.

Firefighter/Law Enforcement Officer/Teacher of the Year Awards

Nominations are due to Tina by August 1. Consider who in your area could be nominated for these awards; Granges may submit one name for each award. State and National forms are available on the Pennsylvania Grange Deaf & Community Service website. I would love to see Pennsylvania nominate three incredible individuals for these awards!



Community Service Reports

Reports are due to Tina by September 15. Late entries cannot be accepted. Please reach out if you have any questions while working on your report. You do not need to submit a scrapbook in order for your report to be judged. The overall highest scoring report will be sent on to Nationals for judging in November.

Please send in your reports. In order for us to receive funding from National Grange, we must have at least 25 percent of Granges submitting reports. It doesn't matter if you are reporting one event or 100, please mail it in.

Project of the Year

The report form for Project of the Year is due to Tina by September 15 and may be mailed with your Community Service report form. Trifolds must be delivered to State Session by 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 19. The form is available on the our website.



We will be collecting items for the Coatesville VA (local to Morgantown) at State Session. Please bring new items to donate to our veterans – the current needs include: sweatshirts, sweatpants, short and long-sleeved t-shirts (not dress shirts or undershirts – they prefer colors other than white. Clothing sizes M-3X are most needed), men's 3-in-1 body wash/shampoo, and flexible head razors. Items must be new. Clothes need to be appropriate for wearing as the outer layer in public and may have pictures, but pictures must be appropriate for men and can not display drugs or alcohol. Plain clothing is fine.



Keep up the good deeds! “Whatsoever you attempt to do, strive to do it well.”

Fraternally,
Tina

Secretary's Corner

Debbie Campbell, State Secretary
secretary@pagrange.org

I hope you are all enjoying your summer, with lots of picnics, vacations, relaxing on the back porch with a cup of coffee and reading your current Pennsylvania Grange News or just lounging by the pool!

National Grange has increased the prices of the recognition seals. They are now \$5.00 each instead of the \$3.00 that was on the Pennsylvania/National Membership Recognition Seals & Certificates Order Form that was sent with your secretary's mailing in February. The corrected form is on the Pennsylvania State Grange website, www.pagrange.org. However, since I do have some seals in stock, this cost increase will not be effective until August 1, 2023, so if you want to beat the price increase, get your recognition request forms sent in before the August 1st deadline. Thank you!

If you haven't already provided us with your members' email addresses, please send us the list. If you don't have them, have a form at your next meeting for them to provide their email addresses and then send them to the Pennsylvania State Grange office. Email blasts go out to all members with email addresses to keep you informed of things that are going on across the state. The National Grange also sends out communications via email.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!





The Junior Granger

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

As you're reading this, summer is in full swing! (But as I'm writing this, we just had - hopefully - our last frost of the spring last week...)

At Junior Grange Camp, Danni Wilcox and Tyler Davis finished their time as Pennsylvania's Junior Grange Ambassadors. I am so proud of them and the growth they experienced this year. They did an amazing job representing all of Pennsylvania's Juniors this year.

During camp, we selected our new Junior Ambassadors (but since I'm writing from the past, I don't know who they are yet!) Read more on our Facebook page and at <https://www.pagrange.org/juniors.html> to read more about camp and all of our summer fun!

Our summer fun as Junior Grangers extends beyond Camp and Family Festival, though. Junior Grangers are going to be busy this summer at fairs and festivals, carnivals and parades - with exhibits, floats, food stands, and more - promoting the Grange and showing off all of their hard work!

Junior Grangers have also been busy working on our **Great Outdoor Challenge** that is printed on the next page; it's also available on the Juniors page of the Pennsylvania Grange website. It doesn't matter how many of the items you "check off" the list, as long as you're having fun and making memories - I'd love to see everything that our Junior Grangers do to create lasting memories!

Cornhole Board Raffle

The PA Junior Grange Committee is raffling off an awesome one-of-a-kind set of PA State Grange 150th Anniversary cornhole boards!



We will draw the winner at the Celebration Banquet of this year's State Grange Session. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from any PAJG Committee member, or by contacting me directly! I will also have chances at Family Festival, Eastern Regional Conference, and State Session - if we have any left by then... don't wait! There are only 1,000 tickets - and there will also be some awesome runner-up prizes, so take your chance! The funds raised from this raffle will help "boost" our Junior Grange name in the state and around the country, so your help would be GREATLY appreciated.

THANK YOU!

And speaking of greatly appreciating things... **THANK YOU** to every Grange that has stepped up and given to the Pennsylvania Junior Grange Appeal! I particularly want to thank the following Granges and individuals who have become sponsors this year:

Meal Sponsor

- Mt. Nebo Grange #1872 (Allegheny County)

Camper Sponsors

- Elizabethtown Grange #2076 (Lancaster County)
- Perry Valley Grange #1804 (Perry County)
- Straub Insurance
- Virginville Grange #1832 (Berks County)

Campfire Sponsors

- Kimberton Grange #1304 (Chester County)
- Valley Grange #1360 (York County)

Every Grange who has donated has proved that the future of our Order is important and valued, and I am so grateful!

State Session

This year's State Grange session is just around the corner in October. Be sure to register your Juniors for the Junior Jam, and to come to our Junior/Youth Breakfast on Saturday. We will do our awards at that breakfast this year, as the Berks County Juniors will be presenting the full Junior Degree on Saturday morning. As a reminder - contest entries will be checked in on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

This year's contests are:

- Recycled Craft - Cans (Aluminum or Tin)
 - Practical/Useful
 - Decorative
 - Juniors-at-Heart
- Cooking - Muffins
 - Sweet
 - Savory
 - Juniors-at-Heart
- Design a T-Shirt - "Be Kind"
- Building blocks
 - Animals
 - Practical/Useful
- Pumpkin Decorating - Mini Pumpkins
 - Painted
 - Be Creative
 - Juniors-at-Heart
 - Virtual Photo Entry (larger pumpkins or gourds allowed)
- Scrapbook Page - Holiday Fun

- Art - Images or 3-D
 - Buildings
 - Nature/Landscape
 - My Family
 - Abstract
- Photography
 - My Hometown
 - Flowers
 - "The Cutest Thing"
 - My Favorite Season
- Junior Grange of the Year Report (due September 15th)

There are also contests in the Lecturer's, Deaf & Community Service, Family Activities, and Youth departments that our Juniors can enter! Check them all out!



Great Outdoors Challenge

- Take a book outside and read
- Go on a walk or hike with your family
- Plant a garden - flowers, herbs, or veggies
- Pick up garbage from along a roadside or stream
- Go stargazing / Observe the stars
- Make a backyard obstacle course
- Spend at least 20 hours outdoors and "unplugged"
- Eat a vegetable or fruit fresh from a garden
- Catch fireflies
- Take photos of the sun rise or set
- Help your family make a meal on the grill
- Invent a new sport or game
- Take a sketchbook and draw what you see outside
- Identify a bird or bug you see
- Track the weather for a week
- Make "sun tea"
- Play flashlight tag
- Shop at a farmers' market
- Go geocaching

Complete as many as possible and return to Phil by July 31st!
pajuniorgrange@gmail.com

Pennsylvania State Grange Officer Elections

I look forward to seeing you all soon! Here are some things coming up:

- **State Grange (Contests, Junior Jam, and fun!)** - October 19-22 (Contest check-in on the 18th and 19th, Junior Jam begins on the 21st), Morgantown, PA

- **National Grange** - November 14-18 in Niagara Falls, New York

- And stay tuned for another Statewide **Junior Gathering**.

I am so proud of everything our Junior Grangers are doing in your communities. Keep up the good work, and make sure you get your friends involved.

As always, practice kindness in everything you do,

Phil



At the 151st Annual Pennsylvania State Grange Session there is only one office up for election.

If you are interested in serving as a State Officer, suggestions for office will be received by Thursday, October 19 at 1:45 p.m. You must have someone pre-arranged to suggest your name from the floor. The election will take place Friday, October 20, at 11:30 a.m. just before the lunch recess.

The By-Laws do not allow nominating speeches in the Grange, but, in Article VI, paragraph 1.6.6, it states “Each person suggested for a state office shall be permitted to appear and speak before the delegate body for a maximum of two minutes at a designated time prior to the election.” These presentations will be done immediately after the suggestions from the floor are received Thursday afternoon.

All officers are to memorize their part in the Degree work; be available for speaking engagements as approved by the State President/Master; support and promote the policies and programs of the State Grange, submit articles for the Pennsylvania Grange News as requested by the editor or President/Master, attend the State Convention, special events, officer’s meetings, and prepare an annual report for the Journal of Proceedings.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Barbara Schroeder [4 years], Be available to attend meetings of the Executive Committee in Mifflintown, on ZOOM, or other areas of the state as needed, contribute to decision making and be available to explain decisions made throughout the year, bring ideas to aid in the development of programs, policies, and projects, provide oversight of property and funds of the State Grange, serve as a member of the Board for the Grange Foundation.

(Other Executive Committee members are Ruth Vonada, Clay Snyder, and Tony Fishovitz)

Subordinate Spotlight

Plumsteadville #1738

Bucks County

The sun shone brightly under blue skies as the Plumsteadville Grange greeted a throng of enthusiastic customers at the opening of its annual farm market on June 3rd.

It's been 22 years since the first market debuted, the dream of a group of dedicated Grange members who envisioned a market featuring locally grown and created merchandise in the group's newly purchased barn.



Members of the Bucks County 4-H welcoming visitors to Opening Day of the Farm Market

The market long ago outgrew the barn, with local vendors setting up stands outside featuring fresh fruits, vegetables, cookies, cakes, pies, breads, honey, eggs, medicinal flowers and artisan crafts. The Bucks County 4-H Club has a stand at the market, and other vendors rotate their visits while local musicians offer background music that helps add a festive air to the day.

The market is a community event with friends greeting friends they haven't seen during the long winter. At the center of this is a group of old friends who share a cup of coffee at a table set aside for friendly conversation. It's that sense of community that brings people back



Dr. Jim Diamond hosts a bee keeping demonstration at the Farm Market.

week after week in search of camaraderie and some of their favorite fresh foods.

This year the market has something new: yoga lessons each Saturday where anyone can drop in. All levels of expertise are welcome to join in.

Vendors offer their wares from 9 a.m. to noon each Saturday through the harvest season, finishing up with pumpkins, squashes and Halloween decorations at the end of October. The barn then goes quiet for a while, reopening for sauerkraut classes in November and a wreath-making class in December. Eventually spring returns and the cycle starts over again.

Plumsteadville Grange
FARM MARKET
EVERY SATURDAY | JUNE - OCTOBER
5927 EASTON RD (RT. 611)
PIPERSVILLE, PA 18947
ACROSS STREET FROM PLUMSTEADVILLE INN
GRANGEFARMMARKET@GMAIL.COM

FRESH & ORGANIC PRODUCTS



N O V A K
STRATEGIC ADVISORS

Agnes O'Toole, Public Relations Consultant
agnes@nsallc.com

Public Relations

As the Pennsylvania State Grange gets closer to the special observance of the 150th Anniversary which will be held in Morgantown October 19-22, we are thrilled to assist with public relations. We have had quite a busy year so far!

On June 13 at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg, Grange members joined several members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Secretary of Agriculture at a press announcement event on the beautiful steps of the Capitol Rotunda. Secretary Russell Redding recognized the Grange for not only celebrating their 150th anniversary of supporting communities in the Commonwealth through community service, education, legislation and fellowship. He also applauded the Grange for using their voice to support Pennsylvania agriculture and rural communities. Ag Chairman Dan Moul and Rep. Dawn Keefer, York County, also expressed sincere gratitude for the rural and agricultural communication from Grange members and the Grange leadership that assists them to craft legislation addressing the concerns of the agricultural community. House and Senate members in the Capitol Rotunda spoke with Grange members in attendance wishing them a wonderful celebration in October and thanking them for their dedication to their communities.

Looking towards summer, the Pennsylvania State Grange is preparing for Ag Progress Days. Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition will be held August 8-10.

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The show is held at Pennsylvania State University's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center. This year celebrates the 47th year at the Ag Progress Days site at Penn State. Ag Progress Days typically features more than 500 commercial and educational exhibitors. Commercial exhibits will showcase the latest ag-related goods and services, and field demonstrations will feature the newest models of farm machinery in action.



The Grange will have a display at the event and sell its popular cookbooks along with raffle tickets. We welcome members to help us during the three-day event as it quite the undertaking to make sure we have a presence. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at pagrange@pagrange.org or at 717-737-8855.

As part of Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania State Grange Master Matt Espenshade will serve on a panel with Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson and Secretary Redding to address the general audience at Thompson's Ag Summit. This year's theme is Science,



Master Matt Espenshade will join Sec. Russell Redding and Congressman GT Thompson at Ag Summit.

Technology, and Innovation. The annual Ag Summit will be August 7 at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology, 80 South Harrison Road in Pleasant Gap. More information will be coming!

We are happy to assist you in any way with your local Grange event announcements. Please feel free to send your Grange events to pagrange@pagrange.org to post on the website and to share on Facebook.

For up-to-date news and events please check out our web page www.pagrange.org

Follow us on Facebook, <https://facebook.com/PaStateGrange> as we are working hard to keep everyone informed.

If you have any upcoming events please let us know so we can help you advertise in the PGN or on Facebook!

pagrange@pagrange.org



5 Minutes with... Philip Vonada

PA State Grange Junior Director

What Grange do you belong to?

I belong to Penns Valley #158 in Centre County and Eagle #1 in Lycoming County.

How long have you been in the Grange?

I joined the Junior Grange in 1993, and became a Subordinate member in 2003.

What is your favorite Grange memory?

Junior Grange Camp - as a Junior, as a committee member, and now as Junior Director. It's always my favorite week of the year! I made lifelong friends at camp as a kid, and now it's so awesome to see our Juniors forming the same kinds of friendships.

What is your favorite thing to do on weekends?

When I'm not traveling for work, one of my favorite things to do is get out into the woods for a hike. I love spending time in nature, and I think we're so lucky to live in Pennsylvania, which has over 3,000 trails to tackle.

What sport would you compete in if you were in the Olympics?

Is drinking coffee a sport? Just kidding! While I'm not a competitive lifter, I really enjoy weightlifting....not sure I could ever truly compete like that, though!

What is your favorite dessert?

My mom's chocolate cake with peanut butter icing!

150 Years of the Pennsylvania State Grange: Then... & Now

Norman M Houser & Tina Keen

150 Years

It is a feat that many organizations do not reach and in 1873, the delegates gathered in Reading could not have foreseen what the future held. How the Grange would change and adapt to the changes in society that continues to make it a relevant part of today's society.

Then...

The Grange in Pennsylvania had a slow start compared to other states. In 1871, Luke Eger would become the force to plant the ideas of the Grange in the state. A resident of Montgomery, Lycoming County, Eger was interested in the newly formed fraternity, but unfortunately most of his neighbors had no interest.

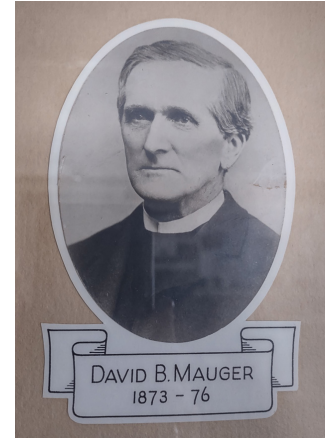
After a lot of persuasion, Eger convinced several family and friends to join the newly formed organization. On March 4, 1871, the first subordinate Grange, Eagle #1, was organized south of Williamsport, in the shadow of Bald Eagle Mountain.

Despite the formation of the Grange within the border of the state, the Grange did not immediately spread. It would be two more years before Keystone #2 was organized on March 10, 1873 in Trappe, Montgomery County. Although Eagle Grange #1 was the first to be organized in the state, Keystone #2 was the start of a movement in 1873 which saw the creation of twenty-five new Granges in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lycoming, Lebanon, Monroe, and Montgomery Counties. With these new Granges came the realization that a State Grange was needed.

On September 18, 1873, twenty-two delegates representing twenty-five Granges met at Blenizer's Hall in Reading for the organization of the Pennsylvania State Grange. This one-day session was called to order by James

Wilkinson, a National Deputy, and the business of organizing the Pennsylvania State Grange began.

With the constitution and by-laws voted upon and accepted, and officers were elected. On the evening of September 18, National Master Dudley W. Adams and National Lecturer T. A. Thompson installed the first officers at the state level. David B. Mauger was installed as the first Master of the Pennsylvania Grange. With all the officers installed, Adams and Thompson declared the State Grange of Pennsylvania fully organized.



At the end of the meeting, the State Grange adjourned until the first Wednesday of January 1874, when they would meet again in Harrisburg. On January 7, 1874, delegates met at Patriarch Grange #42 in Harrisburg for the first annual session of the Pennsylvania State Grange. The formation of the State Grange saw an increase in subordinate Granges – there were now 74 Granges across the state.

The Grange pushed for agricultural and rural reform. The three most important causes the Grange pushed for in the early years were: 1.) the establishment of a co-operative purchasing program for farmers; 2.) the lowering of railroad rates; and 3.) and the establishment of rural free delivery by the United States Postal Service. Also, there was a push for better education and increased medical care in rural areas. By 1886, the issues of conservation of Pennsylvania's forests became an important issue taken up by the Grange. In the late 1920s, the Grange was an important supporter of rural electrification. The Pennsylvania State Grange in those early

years was a secretive society of farmers and others involved in the agricultural fields. They pushed for a better life for those living in rural areas.

...Now

The group of men who had gathered to organize the Pennsylvania State Grange could not have imagined how the Grange would affect the American landscape over the next 150 years. Those early years, the Grange was a secret society in which only members knew what was happening in those closed-door meetings. Our Order now has open meetings – we can encourage the public to attend to learn more about our organization and learn from our Lecturer's Programs. The focus has shifted from exclusively an agricultural organization to one that is focused upon our local communities and pushing for the greater good.

Our Grange continues with approximately 5100 members strong. While we may have originally served the rural communities, we currently have Granges in rural, suburban, and urban locations. Our members are present in their communities, often providing community outreach through food and fellowship, rental opportunities, and donations to food banks, community centers, and volunteer fire departments, among many others. Our fellowship opportunities allow the local community to witness our camaraderie, family-centered environment, and overall joy to be Grangers!



Granges continue to be a strong presence through the various picnics and fairs as well as Ag Progress Days and Farm Show. Without our support, many of these local picnics and fairs would no longer exist in their current form. The State Grange's support of a state fair was crucial for the formation of the Farm Show, and our presence there continues to be of importance. Family Festival celebrates 19 years this year, and has provided our members with a summer gathering to gain new ideas, share knowledge, and, perhaps most importantly, enjoy fellowship.

We are a strong lobbying voice in Harrisburg and in our local communities. As we retain our non-partisan stance, our voice is heard on both sides of the aisle. Our voice has pushed for broadband access for all, rural mental health awareness, and expanding distribution of farm commodities to food banks. PA State Grange continues to have a strong voice testifying the over-order premium to the PA Milk Marketing Board.

PA State Grange continues to pave the way to the future through our strong Junior, Youth, Family Activities, Deaf & Community Service, and Lecturer Committees. The support of our Juniors and Youth ensures our organization will continue many years into the future! Family Activities contests and activities assure that the handiworks of the past will continue to be passed down through our Grange families. The Deaf & Community Service Department continues to put our Grange's names in the communities we serve through our many varied service projects. Our Lecturer's Committee continues to encourage Granges to present programs that educate our members while also providing humor.

As we celebrate 150 years and remember the past, let us not forget to look forward to the future. Where do we see the Grange in another 10 years? 50 years? 100 years? Let us all work together to ensure the Grange thrives for another 150 years!



Government Matters

Carrie Nace, Legislative Consultant
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717-424-5832

Budget Season with Agriculture and Rural Pennsylvania Front and Center

Welcome to summertime in the Pennsylvania Capitol where you should always expect the unexpected. After a slow start to session and budget negotiations, May finally saw some movement in the Capitol to hopefully get a 2023-24 Pennsylvania Spending Plan in place in time for the June 30 constitutional deadline.

On May 16, Primary Election Day in Pennsylvania, two special elections took place which once again decided the control of the Pennsylvania House. In a highly anticipated race in the 163rd House District (Delaware County), House Democrats saw victory with voters choosing Heather Boyd who won by 21 points. The make-up of the House, for now, stands at 102 D – 101 R with GOP holding onto a safe special election in Northumberland County which was also held on May 16th. However, as Yogi Berra once said, “Its Deja Vu all over again” as the House will once again face possibly two special elections in the fall as Rep. John Galloway (D-140) and Rep. Sara Innamorato (D-21) whose primary wins for other offices all but assure new elections will take place for their house seats. This will assuredly lead to contentious special elections in the fall which will once again determine control of the state house.

While budget negotiations initially lagged over the first part of 2023, the House did begin moving budget bills the week of May 22nd to position legislative bills for vehicles for the 2023-24 spending plan.

As of this writing, most line items affecting agriculture and rural Pennsylvania will receive

level funding or a slight increase when compared to the current fiscal year.

Property Tax and Rent Rebate Expansion

One priority of Governor Shapiro in this first full budget is the expansion of the Senior Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program, a program that appears to have wide bi-partisan support and could help many Pennsylvania State Grange members. HB1100 was passed unanimously by the Houses Finance Committee and appears to be on a possible path to passage in both chambers as of this writing.



This legislation would increase the maximum rebate for eligible seniors from \$650 to \$1,000 and increase the income cap for renters and homeowners to \$45,000 a year along with a COLA built in.

If this legislation is passed and signed by the governor, the Pennsylvania State Grange will ensure that members have the information needed to apply for the rebate. As always, I stand ready to help members who have questions or need help with applying.

Pennsylvania State Grange Participating in Discussions on Dairy Policy

As we approach Dairy Month in June, it seems fitting that the Pennsylvania State Grange is front and center in discussions around the over-order premium.

On April 25, State Master Matt Espenshade testified at the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee at the request of Senator Elder Vogel.

The question has been raised whether the premium should be distributed to all of Pennsylvania dairy farms. Fluid milk sales have seen steady decline for many years, while consumer consumption of cheese, yogurt and manufactured dairy products continue to rise. Though these processed products do not generate premium funds, some argue they deserve what would become a significant share of the proceeds.

In his testimony, Pennsylvania State Grange Master Matt Espenshade emphasized to the committee



that the premium continues to benefit the state's dairy industry. In his prepared statement, Espenshade noted the critical role the premium plays in the business model for independent fluid milk bottlers and their local farms.

As the Senate continues discussion around the testimony it received at its hearing, the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board adopted the petition by the Pennsylvania State Grange to hold a hearing to continue the over-order premium, as the current order expired at midnight on June 30. In the submission made, the Grange requested an extension of the current \$1.00 level for the next six months while policy discussions continue. The hearing was held on June 7.

The Grange remains committed to discussions around dairy policy and hopes that leadership in Harrisburg will find opportunities that will benefit all of the state's dairy farms.

Solar Issues and the Grange

As you have read in the "Cultivating Connections" article, the Pennsylvania State Grange was honored at the invitation to present to the American Rural Energy Coalition's National Conference in Pittsburgh on May 4. Bonnie Casselberry of Liberty Grange #1780 gave an informative presentation on questions and issues Pennsylvania should be thinking about in regards to the development of solar facilities, both on the land use side and on the consumer protections side.

The Pennsylvania State Grange is committed to the issue of solar development. To that end, the Grange has formed a subcommittee on solar development. If you are interested in being a part of the group, please email Legislative Director Carrie Nace at carrie@nsallc.com.

Legislative Zooms

A reminder of our monthly Legislative Zooms. I hope to see more of you attend our monthly zooms on the second Thursday of each month as we meet to discuss the latest legislative developments. This provides time for each of us to discuss issues of importance to Grange members and allows me to better represent everyone.

In addition, I love visiting Grange's and I am happy to come to talk to your chapter to talk about what is happening in Harrisburg and throughout the state. I want to know what is important to you so please contact me and I will come join a meeting.

For more information please email me at carrie@nsallc.com or call 717-424-5832.

“We Have Always Done It This Way”

By: Dr. James Diamond, member of Plumsteadville Grange #1738

State and National Granges have 150 years of existence with valuable, useful, profitable, beneficial and rewarding successes within in their respective communities. However, resting on past laurels is often a last-ditch effort to remain relevant. Relying on past achievements leads to organizational stagnation. Stagnation leads to a popular saying which says, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Past successes are no guarantee for the future, especially when there are constant changes within local societies. Past success should not stop members from being resistant to new ideas. When a Grange membership, especially older members, exhibit resistance to change or new ideas, frustrates new members, young members or any member who has a new or different idea. There are four words that create a “word cloud” when asked what does the Grange do?” Often the responses include these cloudy four words, “Service, Community, Fellowship and Family.”

Based upon previous successes, long-time members firmly believe there is no better way to do things. Often times they are correct, however, other members become frustrated when a brilliant idea for Grange events, a plan of action or change undertaking are often scoffed or ignored. When members cannot visualize their future, they become “change blind” which leads to a dwindling membership. I have been asked numerous times, “Are there any cures for ‘change blindness?’” Some ingredients to prevent change blindness include: Do not pull any surprises. Give a “heads-up” to the organizational leaders and discuss the significance of your thinking and its importance before presenting it to the group. Be prepared to explain how and why your idea(s) can benefit the organization and community. Be prepared to meet some resistance from members.

Even though you are aware past activities have been successful, there are a some ways we could improve by emphasizing your idea(s). Change is an important trait of nature. At times change has to happen. Do it in ways to maintain who we are. After a good job describing a new idea, it was still shot down. I know that’s incredibly exasperating. You are allowed to feel a little glum, but, if you’re

going to thrive within a group, you need to be positive and bounce back.

Bouncing back within a stagnate group where you don’t feel appreciated, can deflate your enthusiasm. However, stay positive! Being part of a Grange where the members are intolerant to change presents some definite challenges. So, it’s important to be adequately prepared when presenting your new idea(s). Even if your suggestion is still turned down, in the long run, you can rest easy with the knowledge that you tried your absolute hardest to get the peoples endorsement. One of my favorite quotes which is frequently attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson but actually came from a lady named Muriel Strode, goes like this; “I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path and I will leave a trail.” An alternative change process can create and leave new and long-time Grange members different and energizing trails to follow.

PRELUDE: The expression “We have always done it this way” are seven of the most fatalistic words in the English language. They obstruct growth and change within the framework of many well organized associations such as Granges, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Volunteer Fire Companies, fraternities, churches and many other like groups. There are a plethora of Granges in rural and suburban communities across Pennsylvania and America that have provided enormous benefits to local residents. However societal changes are an ongoing constant which dictate the need for certain mission adjustments of local Granges. I was inspired to write this prose poem titled “We have always done it this way” because I have observed many local well meaning and successful granges dissipate from their respective community because the memberships resisted change because “they have always done it that way.”

Many Granges have innumerable years of existence with valuable, useful, profitable, beneficial and rewarding successes within in their communities. However, resting on past laurels is often a last-ditch effort to remain relevant.



History Committee

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

Introducing our Celebration Banquet Speaker; Workshop Leader

The Pennsylvania State Grange is pleased to welcome Dr. Gary Moore of North Carolina as the featured speaker for the 150th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on Saturday, October 21. Advance reservations are required for the dinner beginning at 7 p.m. in the expo center of the Holiday Inn headquarters hotel, 6170 Morgantown Road, Morgantown PA 19543.



Dr. Moore is a retired Professor of Agriculture and Extension Education at North Carolina State University (NCSU) where he taught courses that focused on the history and philosophy of agricultural and extension education and the use of instructional technology. He grew up on a livestock ranch in Central Texas where he was active in the FFA as a high school student and earned the American FFA Degree. After graduating from Tarleton State University (Texas) with a degree in Agricultural Education he taught high school agriculture for 4 years in Kansas and Ohio before joining the faculty at Ohio State where he taught the Introduction to Agricultural Education course while working on his graduate degrees. After graduate school, Dr. Moore taught at Purdue University and Louisiana State University before coming to North Carolina State University in 1989.

Since his retirement, Dr. Moore continues as a popular and frequent keynote speaker at

conferences and conventions throughout the country. He is tailoring a special message **Searching for the Wizard of Oz in the Grange** for our celebration banquet where he will challenge his audience to seek the brain, heart and courage of the Grange. As an added bonus, Dr. Moore will impersonate Grange founder Oliver Hudson Kelley discussing *Why the Grange was Needed Then, Why it is Needed Now* for a special workshop on Sunday morning, October 22nd at 9:30 a.m. Preceding the workshop will be a buffet breakfast for which advance reservations are required. Please use the registration form in this issue to make reservations for the banquet and/or breakfast as well as other activities at this year's historic state session.

Sponsorships

Additional sponsors received since the issue (as of the end of May 2023):

Sapphire Sponsor (Local Community/ Subordinate Grange Level - \$500-\$999)

- Central #1650, Lehigh County
- Star #993, Northampton County

Ruby Sponsor (Junior Grange level - \$250-\$499)

- Fulton Bank

Watch this column in future issues for a list of additional supporters. All amounts, large and small, will help us reach the goal for a great anniversary celebration. If possible, please make your contributions by July 31, 2023, to ensure that proper recognition can be given in our printed anniversary program.

BITS & PIECES

The \$20/person session registration fee will NOT be charged to those persons attending

only the special 150th anniversary activities in Morgantown on Saturday, October 21-Sunday, October 22.

The registration fee is payable, as usual, by all others attending other parts of the state session.

The session registration form printed in this issue has been slightly updated.

Persons who are candidates to receive the Sixth Degree and those who are being recognized as Sixth Degree members for 50 or more years will find the revised form now includes those choices. By completing and submitting the form in advance, name tags can be prepared in advance and give session planners a good idea how many roses to order for the Saturday afternoon degree work and recognition.

Headquarters for the session is the Holiday Inn Morgantown, 6170 Morgantown Rd.

The State Grange convention room rate will be \$129/night and is available for reservations Tuesday, October 17th through and including Saturday, October 21st. Reservations are now being accepted.

Every Grange in PA should be using the Candle Lighting in regular meetings to celebrate the PA Grange Sesquicentennial.

Written by State Lecturer Jenn Nauss to emphasize Grange values, the topics of the monthly anniversary candle lighting ceremonies for the next few months are:

- July 2023 – Liberty
- August 2023 – Education
- September 2023 – Charity
- October 2023 – Celebration/Looking Ahead

ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY!

- **Acts of Service** – brief descriptions of many new, unique service projects to benefit the community shared on the State Grange Facebook page and website. **As of the end of May, 186 acts had been reported!**
- **“Light the Cake”** – financial contributions in amounts from \$1-\$150 continue to finance the

celebration; contributors will be listed in the historical program booklet

- **Sponsorships** – larger contributions in six categories ranging from \$250-\$5,000; all sponsorship levels include a complimentary ad in the historical program booklet
- **Historical Booklet Ads** – be part of the published history of the State Grange by purchasing an ad block in one-eighth, quarter, half, three-quarter and full-page sizes; due by 7/31/2023
- **Candle Lighting Ceremonies** – 12 brief monthly prepared ceremonies with a reading and votive lighting for use at local Grange meetings, each about a different aspect of the organization
- **Recognition of 50 year+ Sixth Degree members** – help us identify and contact persons who received the Sixth Degree in 1973 or earlier; **this is the final call to report these individuals as personal invitations to the degree exemplification on October 21st will be sent this summer**
- **Tabletop Displays** – set up a 4’ table display at the 2023 session about your Grange to either share its history or tell the story of current activities
- **Pennants** – every Grange (Subordinate, Pomona and Junior) is encouraged to make a pennant to be part of the hotel decorations
- **Door Prizes** – every Grange is asked to donate a door prize of an approximate \$25 value – gift baskets, gift cards, handcrafted items, etc.

Doug Bonsall, Chair

Reaching this HUGE milestone would not be possible if it were not for all of our Grange members! We would like to thank each and every one of you for helping the Grange organization through community service and rural legislation for the past 150 years! We look forward to serving Pennsylvania for another 150 years!



See the latest 150th anniversary update on the State Grange website by clicking on

<https://www.pagrang.org/state-grange-150th-anniversary.html>

Headquarters for the session is the Holiday Inn Morgantown, 6170 Morgantown Rd. The State Grange convention room rate will be \$129/night; the hotel is now accepting reservations.



The Holiday Inn Morgantown has created a booking link for our group. This is the link that can be for guests to make their own reservations.

<http://bit.ly/pagrang150hotel>

If you prefer to call over the phone, you may do so by using the code PGA. When calling the hotel dial 610-286-3000 and press "0".

Reminder the cut-off date to book a room is 09/18/23.

STATE SESSION LANCASTER AGRICULTURAL TOUR

Nettie A. Kauffman

The PA State Session in October will be offering our membership a tour of some sites in Lancaster County on Wednesday, October 18. This tour will consist of viewing a high-tech farming operation – the Kreider Farm. Included with this tour will be a visit to the historic town of Lititz where we will tour the Sturgis Pretzel Bakery and have some time to tour this area on your own. This bakery does old-fashioned soft pretzels by hand and after the tour each participant will receive a freshly baked, hand twisted soft pretzel. Another portion of this tour will be to experience the Amish traditions and practices.

There is a flyer on page 35 with more details of the tour. As you will note on the flyer the expenses for participants on the day before the Session begins – is \$50 for the tour. You need to register for this tour via the Registration Form for the annual session.

It should be noted there is a minimum of 30 and a maximum number of 56 participants to make this tour a success for our Grangers. Let's have participation in this adventure!

I look forward to having our Grangers from across the state take advantage of the "day before" session begins and enjoy an adventure on the "Lancaster Agricultural Tour."

2023 Anniversary Commemorative Item Now Available

Get your limited-edition handmade Christmas ornament, wall hanging or coaster to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the PA State Grange. Just 250 pieces have been commissioned to commemorate this occasion! Each piece is numbered, made from wood right here in PA. To purchase your historical item, send \$10 for one or \$35 for a set of four to: Karen Mohn, 308 Mill Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567. Please make check or money order payable to: PA State Grange History Committee.

Previous 150th anniversary commemorative items sold out quickly in 2021 and 2022 so don't delay – order and prepay today! Orders will be guaranteed when payment is received and the numbered items will be reserved for each buyer in the order received/paid. Orders will NOT be shipped and must be picked up at Family Festival in July or the 2023 State Session at Morgantown in October.

For questions or to place an order today, contact Karen Mohn, 610-589-2473 or kmohn260@gmail.com.



1873-2023
150TH
Pennsylvania State Grange
Anniversary

FINAL COMMEMORATIVE ITEM

Christmas Ornament

Wall Hanging



A wooden wall hanging ornament in the shape of a teardrop with a circular cutout in the center. The cutout contains the '150th Pennsylvania State Grange Anniversary' logo.



A wooden Christmas ornament hanging from a pine branch. The ornament is circular with a teardrop-shaped cutout in the center, featuring the '150th Pennsylvania State Grange Anniversary' logo.



A wooden coaster with a circular cutout in the center, featuring the '150th Pennsylvania State Grange Anniversary' logo. It is shown supporting a white mug with blue polka dots.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

kmohn260@gmail.com 610-589-2473

1 FOR \$10 OR 4 FOR \$35



Join in the Celebration!

October 19-22, 2023 - Holiday Inn Morgantown

Sponsorships

- Sponsor the anniversary - \$250 - \$5,000+
- Due July 31st for recognition in program

Historical Booklet Ads

- Sponsor an ad in the historical booklet/program- 1/8th Page - Full Page
- Due July 31st

Pennants & Door Prizes

- Create a pennant for your Grange
- Donate a door prize (\$25)
- Bring to the session

Grange Displays

- Show off your Grange with a table-top display
- Cash prizes
- Register by July 15th

50+ Year

6th Degree Members

- Register ASAP for recognition at the 150th Anniversary Session in October

Commemorative Item

- Limited edition ornament / coaster / wall hanging
- \$10/each or \$35/4-pack
- Reserve yours ASAP!

Visit www.pagrang.org for more information!



REGISTRATION FORM

Pennsylvania State Grange – 151st Annual Session
October 19-22, 2023
Holiday Inn, Morgantown PA



IMPORTANT NOTE: Please complete a separate form for each person attending. Additional forms are available at www.pagrang.org or by calling the State Grange office (717-737-8855).

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY FOR NAME BADGE

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Grange Name & No. _____ County _____

Please check all that apply:

- State Officer Past State Officer Junior Youth Guest Jr. Chaperone
- Pomona Delegate Subordinate Delegate Youth Officer Dept. Director/Committee

Sixth Degree – please check all that apply –

- I am being recognized for 50+ years of Sixth Degree Membership during the conferral of the Sixth Degree.
- I will be taking the Sixth Degree for the first time.

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE POST MARKED BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

There will be a \$10.00 Late fee assessed after registration deadline.

| | | |
|--|---------|-------|
| Registration Fee | \$20.00 | _____ |
| Registration Fee – <i>Saturday Only</i> | Free | _____ |
| Lancaster Agriculture Tour – <i>(pre-registration is required)</i> | \$50.00 | _____ |
| Thursday – Lunch Buffet – open to everyone | \$25.00 | _____ |
| Children (11 & under) | \$12.00 | _____ |
| Friday – Lunch Buffet – open to everyone | \$25.00 | _____ |
| Past Officers Luncheon Meeting | \$25.00 | _____ |
| Children (11 & under) | \$12.00 | _____ |
| Saturday – Junior/Youth Breakfast – 8:00 a.m. | \$20.00 | _____ |
| Children (11 & under) | \$12.00 | _____ |
| Junior Jamboree (age 5-14) (Saturday–Sunday) | \$30.00 | _____ |
| <i>Includes all activities & meals (Sat. lunch, Sat. dinner, Sun. breakfast)</i> | | |
| Saturday – Anniversary Celebration Banquet – 7:00 p.m. | \$35.00 | _____ |
| Children (11 & under) | \$15.00 | _____ |
| Sunday – Breakfast with “Oliver Hudson Kelley” – 8:30 a.m. | \$20.00 | _____ |
| Children (11 & under) | \$12.00 | _____ |
| Total Enclosed | | _____ |

Please check if you will be participating in the following:

- Public Speaking (Sat a.m.) Sign-a-Sign (Sat. (a.m.)) Youth Party (Fri. p.m.)

Send form and payment **by September 10, 2023**

Make Checks payable to PA State Grange; In the Memo of your check, please put – 2023 State Session

Mail to: Debbie Campbell, 1791 Shull Hill Road., Newport, PA 17074

Questions can be directed to Karen Mohn (610) 823-9674, askmohn@comcast.net

Debbie Campbell (717) 275-4469, secretary@pagrange.org

NOTICE: Gluten Free and/or Vegetarian meals are available. Any dietary or allergy concerns must be known prior to State Session.

Please list them here: _____

PA State Grange Presents:
"Lancaster Agriculture Tour!"



Wednesday, October 18, 2023



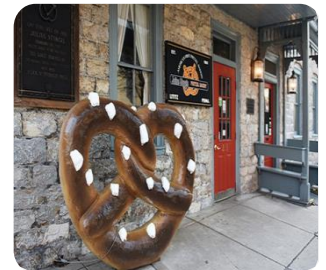
Join us as we spend a day in beautiful **Lancaster County, Pennsylvania!** First, experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a real, working dairy farm on the **Kreider Farm Tour**, which features a high-tech view of farming, including a drive down the middle of their "Cow Palace" barn and a bird's eye view of the milking carousel where they milk 1700 cows three times every day!



Next, we make our way to the historic town of **Lititz**, founded in 1756, and earned the title of "Coolest Small Town in America" in 2013. We will tour the **Sturgis Pretzel Bakery**, founded in 1861, and see their bakers twisting old-fashioned soft pretzels by hand and shop for delicious treats and souvenirs in their bakery store. Every one will receive a freshly baked, hand twisted soft pretzel!



After the tour, enjoy free time exploring **Lititz** and **lunch-on-own** where there is a variety of restaurants within walking distance from Sturgis Pretzel Bakery, such as, Appalachian Brewing Company, Rooster Street Butcher, Bulls Head Public House, and more!



Then, we travel a short distance to **The Amish Experience** in near-by Bird-in-Hand, PA, where we will see the story of **Jacob's Choice**, the emotional story told through the everyday lives of the fictional, Old Order Amish Fisher family, where young Jacob must make the choice in joining the Amish Church, or, leaving his family behind for the allure of the modern world, on their F/X Theater. Then we take a short walk to the **Amish Homestead and School** where you will learn about Amish traditions and practices, plain clothing and life without electricity...the Amish Country Homestead truly provides insights into the complex riddles of a culture so very different from our own.



Price per Person: \$50.00

Package Includes: Motorcoach Transportation; Admission to all listed attractions.

Departing Holiday Inn Morgantown at 8:30 AM ~ **Returning** approximately 6:00 PM

Deadline for Registration and Payment: September 10, 2023



"Itinerary, inclusions, timing, and pricing are subject to change without notice."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, contact Nettie Kauffman at 610-926-5389



There's a mental health emergency in rural America: People living in rural communities have much higher rates of depression and suicide than people living in urban areas. Though hidden away in the shadow for years, if not generations, this challenge is finally being brought into the light, and has led to public discourse about the unspoken impact of mental health issues.

The National Grange is partnering with Rural Minds – a nonprofit organization confronting the mental health challenges faced by rural Americans – to develop a Rural Suicide Awareness and Prevention program. The goal for this educational program is to create a grassroots, person-to-person approach that provides people who live in rural communities with mental health and suicide prevention information.

The Pennsylvania State Grange will welcome Rural Minds founder Jeff Winton to the 151st State Grange Session this October. Winton's program on Thursday evening, October 19, will be open to the public and free of charge.

Personal Tragedy Initiates Call to Action

Jeff Winton was raised on his family's dairy farm in rural upstate New York. Growing up, he discovered that many of the families in his small, 500-person town had a relative or friend living with some form of untreated mental illness—depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, schizophrenia. But their struggle was met with silence. There were few or no resources in the community for treating them or conversations about helping them. The stigma attached to mental illness was palpable.

In 2012, the suicide of his beloved 28-year-old nephew was a wake-up call for Jeff. In the eulogy he delivered, Jeff shared his family's continuing struggle with mental illness. After the service, many local families shared their

own experiences and thanked Jeff for finally giving them the permission to talk openly and freely. He realized that so much more needed to be done.

Since then, Jeff has focused a majority of his professional career aligning his expertise in the biopharmaceutical industry with his passion for helping rural families. He founded Rural Minds, a nonprofit organization to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources.

A Sobering Portrait

A glance at the mental illness statistics in rural America is sobering. Rural Americans have higher rates of depression and suicide than urbanites, but are less likely to seek mental healthcare services. The suicide rate in rural populations is 18.3 to 20.5 per 100,000, which is much higher than the 10.9 per 100,000 rate in urban populations.

According to the CDC, suicide rates have increased by 45% in non-metro areas from 2000 through 2020. Rural residents have a 1.5 times higher rate of emergency room visits for nonfatal self-harm than urban residents.

The challenges facing rural communities in the United States are daunting:

- Rural areas have fewer primary care providers per resident than urban areas and the workforce is growing at a slower rate
- 65% of rural counties lack a psychiatrist
- 81% of rural counties lack a psychiatric nurse practitioner
- 47% of rural counties lack a psychologist
- Nearly 37 million rural Americans—more than half of rural residents—live in mental healthcare shortage areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated existing issues of isolation and unemployment,

had a significant impact on mental health in rural American communities, with 53% of rural adults and 71% of younger rural adults between the ages of 18–34 reporting that the pandemic had affected their mental health.

Unique Rural Lifestyle Challenges to Mental Health

In addition to a lack of mental healthcare resources, rural Americans must deal with lifestyle barriers particular to them, which can impede their ability to access the help that they need.

As of 2020, 46 million U.S. residents, which comprises only 14% of the entire U.S. population, live in rural areas. In addition to increased isolation, residents of rural communities also face greater obstacles to accessing goods and services, endure longer commutes, and generally struggle with economic hardship.

As of April 2020, mere months into the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates hit levels unseen since The Great Depression, peaking at 13.6% in rural areas. In 2019, 15.3% of rural citizens lived in poverty. With unemployment and poverty come a lack of health insurance, rendering mental healthcare inaccessible.

Compounding the issue, internet service providers underserve rural communities. In addition to decreased access to telehealth services, rural residents without broadband internet lack access to information, online schooling, e-commerce, and work-from-home options.

Overcoming Stigma

Given the small, close-knit nature of rural communities, residents worry about whether they can maintain confidentiality of care. They fear word getting out that they are receiving treatment, believing that family, friends and community members will judge them as weak or incompetent.

Stigma looms large over the issue of mental health, especially in rural communities, and can be a major impediment to people reaching out for help. Many view mental illness as a weakness, or a character flaw, instead of seeing it for what it is: a legitimate, treatable medical condition.

“In the days following Brooks’ passing, my family was urged by friends and neighbors to avoid mentioning suicide. They suggested that we say that he died of natural causes. My mother, the matriarch of our family, insisted on addressing the issue head-on, hoping to prevent it from happening again,” said Winton.

Winton believes raising awareness liberates people living in the shadow of stigma to not only seek help, but also to step forward and speak publicly about their stories. Shifting the perception of mental illness, and ultimately ending the stigma surrounding its discussion, is his mission, and the mission of Rural Minds.

Ending Stigma, Changing Rural Minds

Jeff Winton, Founder of Rural Minds

Thursday, October 19 7:30 PM

Following Quilts of Valor Presentation

Open to the public

“

Overcoming this silent epidemic, putting an end to the unwarranted stigma that enables it, is my mission. It is the very reason that I began this work.

JEFF WINTON





Tentative Schedule

151st Annual PA State Grange Session
Holiday Inn, Morgantown (HQ)
6170 Morgantown Road, Morgantown PA 19543

All events at Headquarters Hotel unless otherwise noted

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. | Lancaster Agriculture Tour by advance reservation |
| 1:00 p.m. | Executive Committee Meeting |
| 1:00 p.m. | Exhibit Room Set-up by Committees |
| 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Convention Registration |
| 7:00 p.m. | State Officers Rehearsal |
| 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Exhibit Entries Accepted |
| 8:30 p.m. | Host Reception – Open to everybody |

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Committee Meetings at their discretion

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Convention Registration |
| 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Exhibit Entries Accepted |
| 9:00 a.m. | OFFICIAL OPENING |
| 12:00 p.m. | Recess – Lunch buffet available by advance reservation |
| 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Convention Registration |
| 1:00 p.m. | Judging of Exhibits |
| 1:45 p.m. | Session Reconvenes Suggestions for Executive Committee Member Two-minute comments for candidates Continue work on Resolutions |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Recess |
| 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Convention Registration |
| 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. | Exhibit Room Open |
| 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Quilts of Valor Presentation |
| 7:30 p.m. | Speaker - Jeff Winton, Rural Minds |

Friday, October 20, 2023

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Convention Registration |
| 9:00 a.m. | SESSION OPENS |
| 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Exhibit Room Open |
| 11:30 a.m. | Additional suggestions for Executive Committee member and Election |
| 12:00 p.m. | Recess – Lunch buffet available by advance reservation Past Officers Luncheon- Meeting by invitation/advance reservation |
| 2:00 p.m. | Session Reconvenes |
| 4:30 p.m. | Installation of Officer Session Closes |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner Recess |
| 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Convention Registration |
| 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Auction for 1 st and 2 nd place baked goods to benefit the Youth Department |
| 7:00 p.m. | State Officers Rehearsal for Sixth Degree – Twin Valley High School |
| TBD | Youth party |



Tentative Schedule
151st Annual PA State Grange Session
Holiday Inn, Morgantown (HQ)
6170 Morgantown Road, Morgantown PA 19543

Saturday, October 21, 2023

- 8:00 a.m.-11 a.m. Convention registration @ Hotel
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Junior/Youth Breakfast by advance reservation
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration for Junior Jamboree
- 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Exhibit room open
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Junior Grange Meeting/Degree – Junior Jamboree begins
Degree & Pageant Rehearsals @ Twin Valley High School
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests
- 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Convention registration @ Twin Valley High School
- 12:30 p.m. Opening by State Officers & Fifth Degree conferral by Susquehanna
Pomona @ Twin Valley High School
- 1:30 p.m. Sixth Degree Conferral with recognition of members who received this
degree 50 or more years ago at Twin Valley High School
- 3:00 p.m. Break – Reception @ Twin Valley High School
- 4:00 p.m. Historical Pageant – Youth Drill Demonstration @ Twin Valley High School
- 7:00 p.m. Anniversary banquet by advance reservation (at hotel)
Speaker – Dr. Gary Moore ***“Searching for the Wizard of Oz in the
Grange”***
- Committees tear down displays and get contest entries ready for pick up
by Granges

Sunday, October 22, 2023

- 8:00-9:30 a.m. Pick up contest entries from exhibit room
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast by advance reservation
- 9:30 a.m. Leadership workshop by Dr. Moore (banquet speaker) impersonating
Oliver Hudson Kelley ***“Why the Grange was Needed Then, Why It is
Needed Now”***
- 10:00 a.m. Juniors return from Junior Jamboree (*this time is only an estimate*)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Service
- 11:30 a.m. Closing Friendship Circle



Granges in Action....

WINDFALL #257

Windfall Grange held a dish to pass dinner and honored their long term members. Pastor Ken Brown gave a short meditation after the dinner. Audrey Brackman was awarded for 25 years of membership while Gary Ferguson was awarded with 60 years.

Majorie Pratt and Joey Foust were both presented awards for having a 70 year membership. Joey is not pictured.



WALKER #786

In April, Walker Grange hosted an Easter egg hunt for the 5 kindergarten classes at Juniata Elementary School. All the students were thrilled to go around picking up as many eggs as they could find.



HICKORY #1285

**COMMUNITY
YARD SALE**

**August 11th & 12th 2023
9AM-2PM**

Hickory Grange

836 Mountain Run Rd, DuBois PA
Have unused, unwanted stuff sitting in your way? Donations are needed for the yard sale. All money raised benefits the grange. Items can be dropped off at the grange August 10th @ 6pm .

**Outside Vendors or Individuals welcome!
\$30.00 a spot for both days.**

ELIZABETHTOWN #2076



Natalie Musser was the recipient of the Elizabethtown Grange's Outstanding Senior In Ag Education scholarship; a \$500 award in recognition of her dedication to ag studies in the FFA program.

BERKS COUNTY JR GRANGE

On May 19-21, Berks County Junior Grange held their annual camp. This year's theme was "Jr Grange Jungle".



The Juniors enjoyed a presentation from Zoo America, learned different animal prints, as well as played many many rounds of gaga ball and 4-square. At camp, they also crowned the new royalty members. Junior Princess is Emma Seidel, Virginville Jr Grange. Junior Prince is Jacob Schroeder, Virginville Jr Grange. Mini Princess is Carisa Schaeffer, Virginville Jr Grange. Mini Prince is Cooper Shealer, Ontelaunee Jr Grange. They are pictured with the National Jr Grange Ambassador Nettie Hartley, Rhode Island.

CENTRE COUNTY JR GRANGE

The Centre Junior Grange #552 met and painted some kindness rocks that will be hidden around the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds this summer. This is a fun and simple service project and a way to brighten up the days of our fairgoers!



WATSON JR GRANGE



On May 6, Watson Junior Grange members served a 3-course music themed mystery dinner for the community. Diners were given a menu, that had a bunch of different music words, each of them would be a different food that they would order. Diners had no idea what food they ordered until they got it, or if they would even have silverware to eat with (though diners had the option for silverware for additional cost) It was a great time! Proceeds from this dinner helped to send the Junior members to camp this summer.

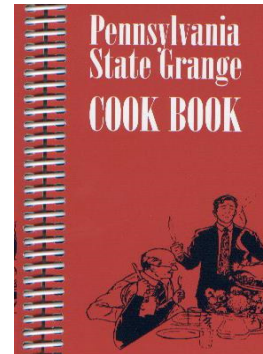
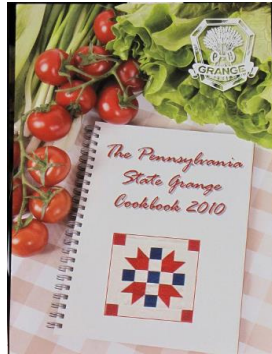
WALKER #786

Walker Grange in Juniata County recently presented a monetary donation to the DeLauter Youth Center. The Youth Center's President, Karen Sigler, gave members of Walker a thorough history of the center, current activities, and hopes for the future of the Center. She also informed the Grange that the Youth Center runs solely on donations. Pictured is Walker Grange's Executive Committee member Mark Partner presenting the check to Karen Sigler.





MARKETPLACE



Cookbooks

www.pagrang.org/grange-store



We have less than 300 copies of the 1950 edition.

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

Apple Butter

The Pennsylvania State Grange has been able to purchase one batch of Apple Butter to sell for this year. The 91 cases of Apple Butter have been distributed throughout the State for your convenience in picking it up. Please contact one of the following people to arrange picking up Apple Butter if your Grange would like to sell it.

Cases of 12 jars are \$54. Granges are encouraged to sell the jars for a minimum of \$6.50.

Progress Grange, Centre Co. Tammy Jurkowski 814.404.2460
Crawford Pomona, Crawford Co. Sherman Allen 814.671.9947
Fairview Grange, Beaver Co. Chuck Campbell 727.601.3184
Pennsylvania State Grange office 717.737.8855

Developing a relationship with road side produce markets and country stores has proved successful for several Granges in marketing the product.

RESOLUTION

Deadline

*Approved
resolutions due to
State Grange
Office by Sept. 15*



Grange Cookbook Classics

Butter-Herb Baked Fish

1/2 cup butter or margarine
2/3 cup crushed saltine crackers
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 tsp garlic powder

1 lb frozen fish fillets, thawed and drained
1/2 tsp each basil leaves
1/2 tsp oregano leaves
1/2 tsp salt

Melt butter in a 9x13 inch baking pan. Meanwhile, combine cracker crumbs, Parmesan cheese, basil, oregano, salt and garlic powder in a shallow pan, such as a pie pan. Dip fish fillets in butter and then into crumb mixture. Arrange fillets in baking pan. Bake until fish is tender and flakes with a fork.

Bake time: 25-30 minutes. Temp: 350 degrees
Servings: 4

Ruth Ravenscroft, Ohioyle Grange #1933



This recipe can be found in the 1984 edition of the Pennsylvania State Grange Cookbook.



Welcome New Members

Keystone #2

Robin Eachus
Ben Webb

Russellville #91

Mark Conner
Rebecca Conner
Vernon Fronefield
LaVerne Fronefield
Bobbie Jo Delp
Harvey Reyburn

Logan #109

Dan Miller

Union #152

Jennifer Johnson

Penns Valley #158

Lisa Whiterite

Shavers Creek #353

Kristie Holsey

Dawson #419

Maria Catalina

Forest #853

Norma Black
Kay Gawlas
Lisa Hoffman
Macalie Hoffman
Doug McMichael
Kathleen McMichael

Buckhorn #1119

Stephen Andry
Kovitch

Fairdale #1157

Pamela Jenner

Hickory #1285

David Courson

Tami Curley

Roseville #1290

Andrew Hawk

Carmichaels #1389

Paul Rhodes

Burgettstown #1502

Stacy Rutter

Ontelaunee #1617

Elisha Merkel

Marga Row

Wesley #1675

Hunter Viscusi

Scrubgrass #1705

Bonnie Snyder

Red Lion #1781

Kennedy Laird

Shermanata #1796

Kari Nace

Chris Moore

Debby Moore

Autumn Moore

Canyon Moore

Greenwood #1852

Sandra Brofee

Congratulations on the newly organized Grassroots #2112

Jordan Garil

Cindy Fredrick-Fulton

Nancy Trimble Kline

Tina Fedonik

Allyson Hoffman

Stephen Kline

Annie Gerhart

Tammy Gerhart

Christopher Fox

Jared Swanger

Cindy Swanger

Todd Fulton



In Memoriam

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servant...”

Eagle #1

Robert More

Sanatoga #25

Jack Walters

Brandywine #60

Shirley Joseph

Russellville #91

Harold Bryson

Progress #96

Harry McClenahan

Logan #109

Lynn Corl

Janet Houser

Dawson #419

Helen Mills

Scotch Valley #510

Betty Brenneman

Charles Brenneman

Ruth Griffin

Mary Wallace

New Vernon #608

Charlotte McCoy

Middletown #684

Marian Lownes

Forest #853

Alfred Motzer

Virginia Motzer

Elk Creek #997

Joan Wohlgemuth

Oliver #1069

Neva Richard

Chestnut Ridge #1133

Peggy Day

Roseville #1290

David Burnham

Harriet Songer

Wesley #1675

Robert Sterrett

Scrubgrass #1705

Edwin Rachuba

Red Lion #1781

Eugene Kilgore

Beverly Stein

Spring Church #1803

Sara Deemer

Kutztown #1836

Eddie Reilman

Betty Yeager

Bernville #1887

Erma Gerberich

Madison #2064

Marcella Dobbs



Ag PROGRESS DAYS

Penn State

Admission and parking are FREE

August 8-10, 2023

Tuesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Wednesday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Penn State
College of Agricultural Sciences

151st NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION 2023

FLOW INTO THE FUTURE

Registration is open!

November 14-18, 2023
 Niagara Falls, New York
 Niagara Falls Convention Center
 Syceton, Niagara Falls

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

JULY

- 2-8: PA Junior Camp; Camp Sylvan Hills
- 4: Independence Day
- 13-16: Family Festival;
Centre County Fairgrounds
- 18-23: Grange Revival;
Upper Peninsula of Michigan
- 30: 2nd Quarter Dues Report Due (Bonds)

AUGUST

- 8-10: Ag Progress Days;
Pennsylvania Furnace

SEPTEMBER

- 4: Labor Day
- 10: State Session Registration Due
- 15: Resolutions Deadline

OCTOBER

- 18-22: 151st Annual State Session;
Morgantown, Berks County
- 31: 3rd Quarter Dues Report Due

NOVEMBER

- 5: Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11: Veterans Day
- 14-18: National Grange Session;
Niagara Falls, NY
- 23: Happy Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 25: Merry Christmas

JANUARY 2024

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

FEBRUARY

- 19: President's Day

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.