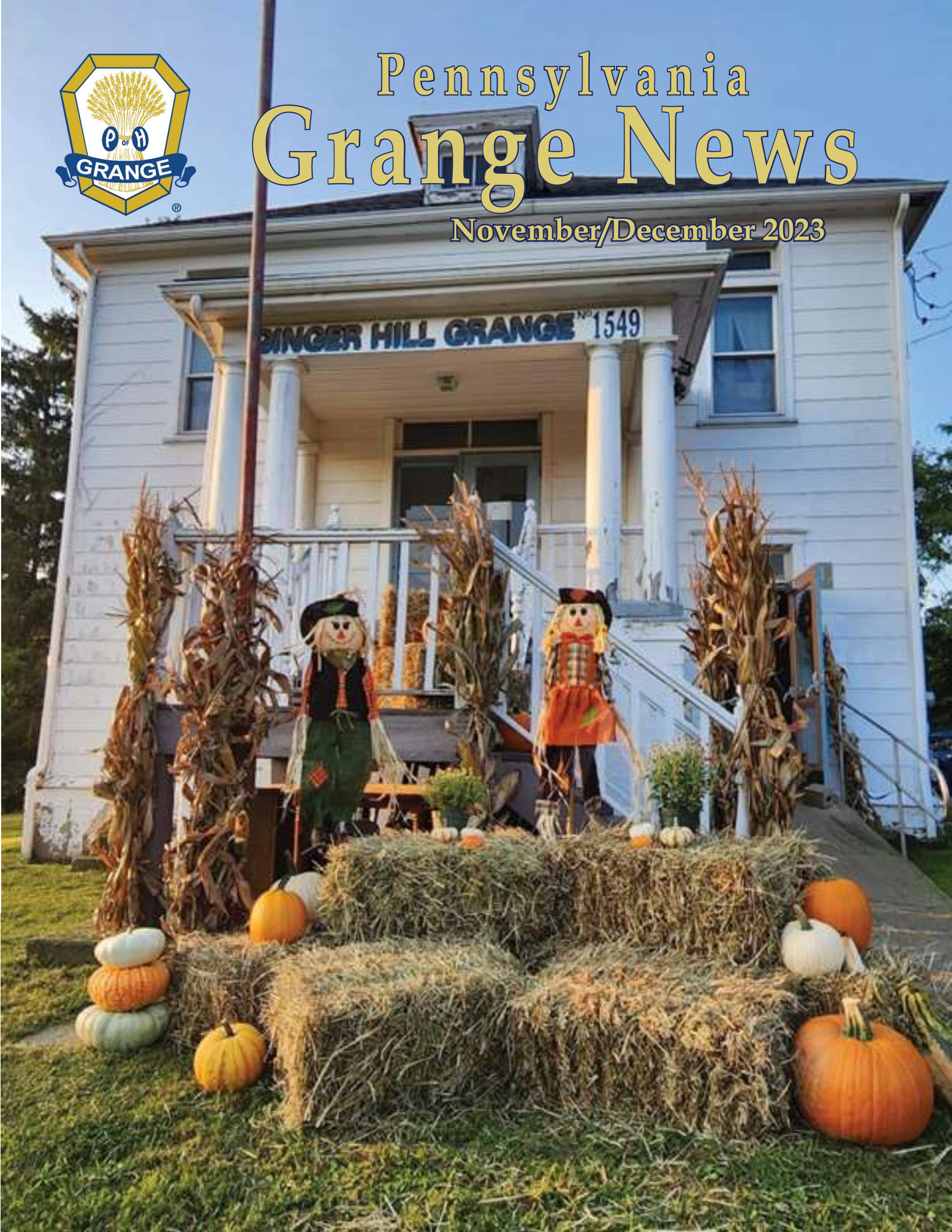




Pennsylvania Grange News

November/December 2023

BINGER HILL GRANGE #1549



On the cover:
Ginger Hill Grange #1549 in
Washington County.



26

Subordinate Spotlight: Shermanata #1796



28

New Year's Eve Celebrations Around the Commonwealth

**FC AFFORDABLE
CONNECTIVITY
PROGRAM**
Helping Households Connect.

7

Cultivating Connections: National Grange Partnership

Pennsylvania Grange News
26 CJEMS Ln.
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May 25, 2024

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

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Gingerbread

75g butter
3 1/2tbsp golden syrup
60g light soft brown sugar
175g plain flour
1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2tsp ground ginger

- Add butter, golden syrup and light brown sugar to a pan. Stir on a low heat until sugar has dissolved.
- Add flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger to a mixing bowl then stir together. Make a well in the centre and pour in the sugar and butter mixture.
- Stir together to form a dough (it might be easiest to use your hands).
- Wrap in clingfilm and let chill for 30mins to firm up.
- Lay the dough between two sheets of baking parchment. Press dough lightly with a rolling pin. Give a quarter turn then repeat.
- Give it a final quarter turn, then start to roll backwards and forwards, giving regular quarter turns. until dough is roughly thickness of a £1 coin.
- Using a biscuit cutter cut out the shapes.
- Bake at 190°C (370°C fan) mark 5 for 10 to 12min, until lightly golden brown.
- The biscuits won't be firm but will harden when left to cool outside the oven.

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Holiday Recipes & Traditions from your State Officers

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The Master's Station

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

The Great Inheritance

Growing up on a dairy farm that's been part of my family since 1867, I have always been surrounded by reflections of the choices of the generations that preceded me; whether it be the Sol-Air free stall barn my dad built in 1972, the Farmall H my Grandpa bought with one year's profits from raising tobacco, or the 1857 brick farmhouse in which he was born. Though decades ago, those decisions still influence our family business today, from the species of animals in the barn to the color paint on our tractors.

As I've gotten older, I have come to realize that we never really 'own' a farm. Instead, we are merely its caretakers. I am the seventh generation of our family to work these same fields. With time, I've come to understand and deeply appreciate that we are the stewards of the land and animals in our care.

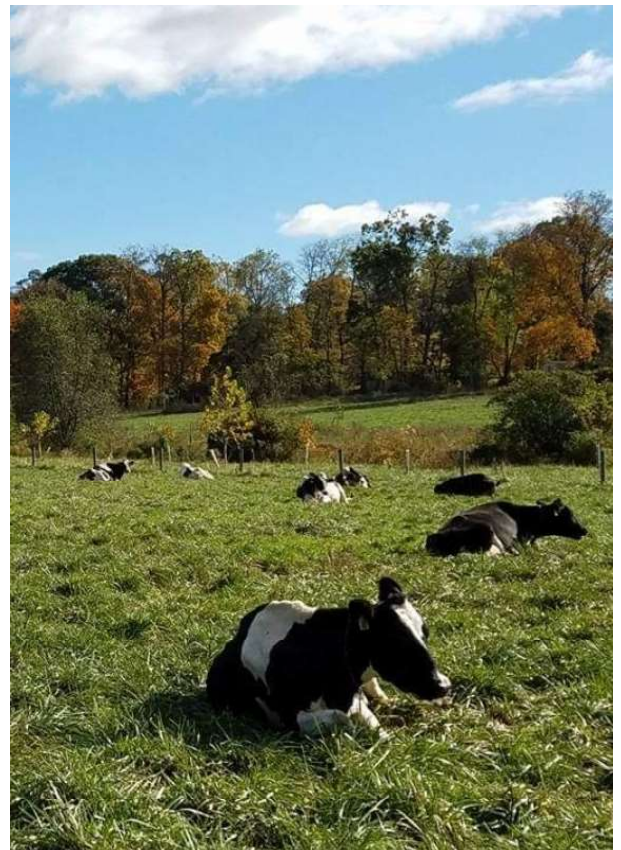
And when you think about it, can't the same thing be said about our time in the Grange? Are we not merely caretakers, the stewards of this beloved Fraternity for a brief time over its storied history?

I believe this is true, and as such, it should be our goal to leave the Grange in better condition than when we joined. And like a farm, it should be the hope of each of us to pass it on to the next generation.

During the past year, we have celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Grange. As I prepared the Master's Address to present to the delegates at State Session, I reviewed several past addresses and commentaries. Among them, I was struck by one in particular which highlighted 'The Great Inheritance' in which each of us as Grangers have been entrusted.

"The Great Inheritance" is a theme that resonates deeply with the legacy we carry as members of the Pennsylvania State Grange. As we reflect upon our past, embrace the challenges of the present, and look toward the future, we are reminded of the remarkable framework of values, knowledge, and traditions that have been handed down to us.

Our inheritance is not merely one of material possessions, but instead a rich tapestry woven with the threads of resilience, community, and the unbreakable bond between the land and



Cows relax on the autumn pastures at
Master Matt's farm

those who tend it. It is a legacy forged by those who toiled tirelessly in the fields, weathered storms both literal and metaphorical, and stood united to protect and preserve the heart of rural life.

As the standard-bearers of this legacy, it is our duty to carry it forward with a renewed sense of purpose and determination. The challenges we face today are undoubtedly different from those of our predecessors, but the essence of our mission remains unchanged. We must adapt to an evolving landscape, advocate tirelessly for our farmers, embrace innovation, and stand as guardians of the rural way of life.

Our subordinate Granges do amazing things. As I travelled across Pennsylvania during the past year, I enjoyed seeing the impact our Granges make in their communities. From the fair booths and displays, community nights to fundraisers and legislative events, each Grange is making their mark. I would like to encourage Grangers to share their events with the State Office so they can be featured in Pennsylvania Grange News, the bi-weekly e-newsletter, social media and possibly on the Pennsylvania Granger page in Lancaster Farming newspaper.

Let us remember that “The Great Inheritance” is more than a theme, rather it is a call to action. It is a call to honor the labors of those who came before us, to chart a path that addresses the challenges of our time, and to ensure that our legacy is one of progress, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the land and country we love.

May we always cherish the Grange, and this “Great Inheritance” in which we have been entrusted. By working together, we will cultivate and nurture an organization which will yield opportunity and satisfaction for generations to come.

Fraternally,
Master Matt

Scholarships & Grant Applications Due May 1, 2024

Santee Student Loans

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

Rhone Grant \$300

one grant awarded per year

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

The Grange Scholarship Endowment at Penn State University

\$1,500 per academic year
(may be renewed in subsequent years)

Deaf Interpreter Scholarship

\$250
one grant awarded per year

Pennsylvania State Grange Foundation Scholarship

\$500 per academic year
(may be renewed in subsequent years)
Up to four scholarships awarded per year

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



Membership News

Norman Houser, Membership Director
nhouser@pagrange.org

The one thing I wanted to do from the beginning was get out and visit as many local Granges as possible. It has been awesome seeing how local Granges are active in their communities. It is amazing to share with one another what is working within their Grange and what isn't. I want to visit with your Grange and if you'd like to have me share with you – or you want to share with me – ideas and events, please contact me. I'll be happy to come to your meetings.

Over the past summer, I've visited fairs with Grange booths set up, parades which had Grange floats, and Grange sponsored events including speakers and meals. Seeing the Grange in action has been exciting as these events are introducing non-members to the Grange.

*“I
Never
Felt
Welcomed”*

Once we've introduced them to the Grange, the next step is: How to get them to become members?

The biggest hurdle comes next – they need to feel wanted and they are a part of something. In the past I've been asked to be a member of other organizations. I listened to the speeches. I read the brochures. I attended a meeting. Yet I never got beyond that step to become a member.

“Why?” you ask. The simplest answer is: I never felt welcomed. I sat through meetings with two

different groups where not one person greeted me. One of those meetings, not one person spoke to me – I walked in, sat down, attended the meeting, and left without one person talking to me.

Unfortunately, that is one thing we need to work on to grow our Granges. We need to make people feel welcome and a part of something. I was working a booth at Centre County Grange Fair and a couple in their late 40s stopped and I asked if they were Grange members. Their response was: “There's a Grange just down the road from us, they always seem busy doing something, but nobody has talked to us about joining.”

Is that how the Grange is supposed to work? If people are coming to Grange events, then we need to be talking with them, getting to know them, so they'll come back. A while back I was asked to speak at a local church and the one thing that church did which really made an impression was they had a welcoming group. Not just someone who stood at the entrance and handed out a bulletin, but there were people who personally welcomed new attendees and visitors to make them feel a part of the congregation.

Making them feel a part of the Grange includes one more step: we need to follow up. At your meals, speakers, and other events, have a handout providing more information about the Grange. I had recently stopped at a church meal which provided a handout with a website link on it. It was to a simple survey asking why I had there, how I rated the meal, if I would like more information about the church, and a spot for either my email address or phone number.



PA Grange Partnerships for the Betterment of Agriculture and Rural Communities

National Grange Partnership to Expand Rural Broadband

For 20 years, the Grange has been the leading voice advocating for the expansion of broadband into rural communities. Most frequently, we focused on the infrastructure of build-out, which is still a major factor keeping millions of Americans from high-speed, reliable internet to their homes. However, for others, broadband is available but unaffordable.

For this reason, the National Grange is actively working to promote the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides a discount benefit for broadband to low-income and other eligible individuals. After receiving a grant to assist with the program's promotion, we have begun registering Granges to take part in the work to inform people in the communities in which Granges are located, and beyond, about ACP.

Please remember that taking part in this outreach program is community service.

Certainly, we want all Grange members to know about the benefit and sign up if they are eligible, but this cannot stop within our doors. Just like giving nonperishable items to the food bank is important, so is taking the information about ACP to the director of the food bank and asking for it to be placed in the boxes and bags of recipients.

Please take the time to register your Grange to take part in this outreach service, which will allow you to receive free materials to give to your local food bank, to senior centers, to veterans'

organizations in your hometown, to place on bulletin boards in your halls and in other community spaces, to put on tables at events your Grange takes part in and more. From placemats that can be used at your community breakfasts and dinners to yard signs that can be placed on the lawns of members whose properties are on well-traveled roadways, there are many ways your Grange can increase awareness about the ACP program.

When you register through grange.biz/signupgrange or by texting or calling National Grange Membership and Leadership Development Director Amanda Brozana Rios at 301-943-1090 and leaving a message, you will be assigned a Community Navigator - an individual that works with our partner, Oregon Institute for a Better Way, to help Granges plan for the outreach, order and packaging the materials, perform data collection and more.

Granges that take part in this program may even be eligible for a small financial incentive, but it all starts with the first step of registering your Grange to become an outreach partner.

The National Grange wrote this article for the National Grange Chain Newsletter.
www.national.grange.org

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
Helping Households Connect

ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO AFFORD INTERNET?

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MONTHLY DISCOUNT

[ACPRC.ORG](https://www.acprc.org)



The Lecturer's Scroll

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

Greetings from South Central PA!

2024 Regional Leadership Conferences

As I write this, plans for the 2024 State Grange Leadership Conferences are in the preliminary stages. Hopefully by the time you read this, plans will be finalized, and information will be available at the State Grange session, as well as on the State Grange website and Facebook page. The plan is to hold two conferences in late February or March. Look for more details as they become available and make plans to attend.

We hope to again bring meaningful leadership training to these conferences with the participation of many of the State Grange Department Chairs. The conferences will be a great opportunity to meet Grangers from across the state and gain some helpful skills to take back to your Granges. These conferences will be open to all Grange leaders and members, so spread the word in your Granges!

2024 Eastern Region Leaders' Conference

Every year, there is a series of National Grange conferences that are held in each region of the country. Pennsylvania's region is the Eastern Region, which runs from Pennsylvania to Florida. In 2024, Pennsylvania is scheduled to host the annual Regional Leaders' Conference.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of July 26-28, 2024.

Plans are still in the beginning phases, but tentatively are slated to include two tracks of workshops – one for youth and Juniors and one for Grange leaders, including Lecturers/Program Directors. Like the last

time Pennsylvania hosted the conference in Gettysburg in 2019, there will also be some events for the whole group to join together. The regional conferences are a wonderful opportunity to gain leadership training and meet Grange friends – old and new – from around the eastern United States. Look for more details in early 2024 as we work to plan this conference!

Updated Contests Begin in 2024

Many of the Lecturer's Contests and Programs will continue in the 2024-2025 cycle, including the report, scrapbooks, and Creative Connections contests. Also continuing will be the "Design a Program" contest and "Lecturer's Grant" program. Please encourage your Grange members to participate in these contests – they are designed to provide help to you as Lecturers/Program Directors. The My Favorite Anything contest continues, as do the Art, Virtual Photography, and Pen In Hand contests. These three contests will have updated classes, including:

Art:

1. Animals
2. People
3. The World Around Me

Virtual Photography:

1. Birds and Bugs
2. Water
3. Architecture
4. Working Farms
5. Emotions

(continued on page 24)



History Committee

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

Wow! What a Celebration! Hope you Enjoyed the 150th Anniversary!
The next issue of PA Grange News will give complete details of the celebration which climaxed with the 151st state session in Morgantown, October 19-22, 2023.



Sponsorships

Additional 150th anniversary sponsors received since last issue (as of 9/10/2023):

Sapphire Sponsor (Pomona Grange Level - \$500-\$999)

- Pennian Bank, central Pennsylvania

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

- Cynthia & Arthur (Norm) Shaffer, Cumberland Valley #2104, Cumberland County
- Jenn Nauss, Valley #1360, York County
- 2023 Family Festival Paint & Sip
- Fleetwood #1839, Berks County
- American Income Life, Harrisburg, PA
- Jeffrey G. & Colleen Trauger, Bucks County
- Gouglersville #1743, Berks County
- Mark Kieffer Family & Trinity UCC, Berks County
- Kutztown #1836, Berks County
- RM Schaeffer, LLC, Lenhartsville, PA
- Warren-Forest Pomona #10

A complete listing of all sponsorships is printed in the 2023 commemorative historical booklet.

Reminder

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

Office to inquire if your Grange is in need of such items.

Future Direction

Filled with pleasant memories of a wonderful observance for the State Grange's 150-year story, the work of the History Committee will return to more usual duties preserving history for future generations. We strongly encourage:

- active local Granges to consider preservation of their important records through safe storage in climate-controlled conditions, microfilming and/or digitization.
- closing Granges to donate their records to local historical societies or libraries for future reference; when this is not a viable option, the State Grange has some limited space in the Mifflintown headquarters for storage of these items.

• The new State Archives Building (PA Historical & Museum Commission) in Harrisburg has been completed and the moving of stored documents has been underway since May, 2023. The new building on North Sixth Street was expected to open to the public by the end of October 2023. With greatly increased storage capacity at the Archives, the State Grange History Committee will inquire about and actively pursue the Archives' resumption of accepting Grange records for permanent storage/preservation.

Doug Bonsall, Chair



Chaplain's Message

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

Season's Greetings from Central Pennsylvania!

Where did the 2023 go? This year has flown by and it is hard for me to grasp that I think about Thanksgiving and Christmas whenever it's still 76 degrees outside, and yet in the middle of September.

As we begin the journey to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, our minds often take us, and should do so, to a time of gratitude and blessings, both in given and received.

One favorite verse for us farmers is found in Psalm 67:6: "The earth has yielded its harvest. God, our God, blesses us." And those thoughts of blessings take us right into Christmas where it is good to remember our greatest gift is Jesus Christ. God promised Jesus centuries before His birth in Jeremiah 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will



raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land" And the promised fulfilled at

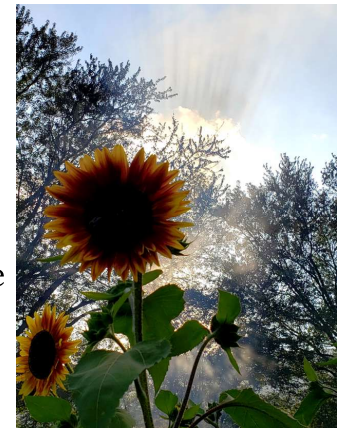
Christmas when Mary gave birth to God's Son, where but in a manger with animals all around. A blessing and love gift to all humanity.

Christmas is a time of Blessings and Love. Even if we do not recognize it at first. My family received a blessing that we are now beginning to recognize, yet when it happened, it was one of the darkest times in our lives.

My parents lost their house to a fire..... my childhood home, and at the time of this writing, we are still struggling to understand the why? Why did it happen? Why did God

allow it to happen? But as I am reflecting, I am discovering that at the base of those WHY questions are the many blessings with them:

- the blessing that my sister was home and got the dogs away from the house
- the blessing that my parents were not home and caught in the fire
- the blessing that the fire happened in the morning and NOT at night when lives could have been lost
- the blessing that so many people in the community (near and far) have helped
- the blessing that my mom was able to gather some memories from the house prior to losing everything else.



What a lesson to learn.

God has blessed us in this season of love and gratitude of the year and in our lives.

On a more personal note, my family and I wanted to thank EVERYONE that reached out with phone calls, text messages, Facebook messages to ask how they are doing and if they needed anything. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Your kind generosity and prayers have been a huge blessing in our lives and we can never thank you all enough. As we go into the Christmas holiday, remember how blessed you are and may God watch over you and your family this Christmas season and into the new year.

Love Always,
Jodi Keith Kensinger



Family Activities

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

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Where has the year gone? I can't believe we are already in November and getting ready for the holidays.

Another State Session is successfully in the books. It was a very busy session again this year, especially with all the Degree presentations and the 150th Anniversary celebrations. I hope you still found time to visit the Family Activities exhibits and see all the great entries. When you stopped in to see all the entries, I hope you voted for the People's Choice Award. I know there are so many to choose from – its hard to pick a favorite. There are a lot of talented people across this great state. All winners will be listed in the January/February PGN.

The quilts for our 2023 and 2024 raffles were on display for everyone to see along with the other raffle prizes that were donated by Subordinate and Pomona Granges. Our quilt winner and all other raffle prize winners will also be listed in the January/February PGN.



2024 Raffle Quilt

Also available were the new contest listings for 2024 & 2025:

- the Quilt Block for 2024 is the "Southern Belle" quilt.
- the Baking Contest for 2024 are – Blueberry Muffins, Pumpkin Whoopie Pies and Cereal Candy.

We will still have all of our regular contests such as quilts, afghans, embroidery, cross stitch and plastic canvas. For 2024 will again have Tin Punching, Belts and Stenciling.

Hopefully you'll be able to find some time in the upcoming Holiday season to start working on some of these contests. If anyone needs a copy of the contests, please email me at clbasket@ptd.net and I will send a copy out to you.

Have a great Holiday Season and Remember the Reason for the Season!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

God Bless!

Fraternally yours,
Cindy Schlegel

PS - Don't forget about the Farm Show coming in January. Plan a day and come out to help at the State Grange Booth, help sell quilt tickets, and also enjoy the sights, sounds and especially the food.



Youth & Young Adults

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

Greetings from the Youth Department. By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the 150th annual session and some of our Youth will be attending the National Session in Niagara Fall, NY. This was an active summer for our royalty team.

Shae Smith – 2nd place in Grange baseball and Bryce Danko – 3rd place in Grange baseball.

EASTERN REGIONALS:

Mt. Olive,
North Carolina

Pennsylvania was represented at the Eastern Regional with Jen, Ken, Bryce, and Riley Danko, Shae Smith, Wayne and Deb Campbell, Phil Vonada, and Gail Switzer. We were a small, but mighty crew.



These two will represent Pennsylvania at the National Session. Bryce also won 1st place in the Impromptu category as well as the Ambassador prepared speech. They have certainly made Pennsylvania proud. Please save the date for July 26-28, 2024, as Pennsylvania will be hosting next year. The location is TBD.

Being in the “pickle area,” it is only right that the weekend started by learning how to make homemade pickles. The evening ended with a competitive round of Grange baseball. Saturday morning, we toured a local Grange farm, Holly Grove Farm. This farm makes their own all-natural goat cheese. We tasted the varieties and were intrigued at how interesting the flavors came together with a cream cheese like consistency.

AG PROGRESS DAYS

This three-day event was represented by our Youth on various days. Jen and Shae attended on Tuesday, Ashlan and Desira went on Thursday. The days were filled with sharing information on the Grange, selling quilt raffle tickets, as well as cookbooks. They then had the opportunity

to explore the grounds with some interesting booths. While walking, they were able to talk to younger people in the

The remainder part of the day, we participated in workshops from the National Youth team as well as a North Carolina member of the National Grange Ag Committee with information of cannabis. The evening was filled with being a captive audience for the public speaking and sign-a-song competitions. We are so proud of our winners of the evening:





area about their sash and their experiences in the Grange. It was a great event to spread the news of our organization!



As we head into 2024, we have many exciting activities planned so be sure to follow us on Instagram or Facebook for announcements. Please, reach out to us if you would like to have our royalty team visit your Grange for an event or to present a program. We have a very dedicated group who is motivated to spread the word of the Grange.



5 Minutes with... Tina Keen

PA State Grange Deaf & Community Service Director

What Grange do you belong to?

Russellville Grange #91, Chester County

How long have you been in the Grange?

I've been a Grange member since joining Junior Grange at age 5. I was honored with my 30 year certificate this year.

What is your favorite Grange memory?

So many great memories, I'm not sure I could pick just one! One of my favorites is working together with my fellow Junior Grangers on a tied quilt that I still have to this day.

What is your dream job?

I'm blessed to have it - being a stay-at-home mom.

What is your favorite holiday or tradition?

Christmas. As kids we would attend Christmas Eve services and then head home for meat, cheese and crackers - a special treat! We would often have canned ham for breakfast with omelets using some of the leftover cheese. For supper we would head to my Nana's house and see much of our large extended family. My mom's side always gets together the Sunday after Christmas, and it's as much fun now as when I was a child!

What is your favorite TV show?

Bluey. (Parents of young children will understand!) Todd (my husband) and I like to watch some of the reality TV shows - Street Outlaws, Big Brother, Bachelor, etc.



Deaf & Community Service

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

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” 1 John 3:17

Driving through our city, it’s easy to see a lot of people in need. From the food boxes near our parks to the homeless sleeping on the benches to the children who are out on the streets from dawn to dusk, we are surrounded by people in need. Realistically, we can’t financially help each of those individuals, nor would that potentially be the best use of funds, but we can take steps to alleviate the suffering of those around us.

I also think it’s essential for us to remember that by “has no pity on them” what is meant is “had compassion on them.” The Bible isn’t telling us to look at people and feel sorry for them, but to reach out a helping hand to those people. We need to shift our thinking from helping being a “hand out” to being a “hand up.”

How can we help? When did your Grange last step out of your comfort zone and have a conversation about how you can best help those around you? At a recent Grange meeting, we had a lengthy discourse about how we can serve our community. Our Grange is very good at collecting items to donate and very good at donating money to support causes. One of the things we are constantly working on is how to “do” more – how can we be Grangers in action to help those around us?

Junior Grange

The focus for the fourth quarter is community service. How is your Junior Grange (or 1+ member) supporting this focus? The 2023

Junior Grange Service Project is planning and conducting a local food or supply drive. Children learn by what they see and by what they experience – mentor the Juniors in your local Grange by supporting them in this endeavor. I appreciate that Juniors are also encouraged to reflect after their project is completed. While it’s easy to want to skip this step, I find that this is when individuals can really learn and grow – to be able to reflect and admit mistakes and discuss how to make improvements for future projects is essential.

2024 Focus

Our focus for 2024 is victims of domestic violence. According to a report in 2010 by the CDC, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States, on average. In addition, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. While we may want to put on our blinders and pretend this doesn’t occur, the reality is that it does occur and that, statistically speaking, we all know someone who has been the victim of domestic violence.

How can you support domestic violence survivors in your area? Reach out to local shelters and organizations who support these men, women, and children. While you may never be able to see the impact you are making due to confidentiality, know that you are making a difference by helping these individuals.

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

Fraternally,
Tina

Community Service Ideas

While this is by no means an exhaustive list, perhaps by perusing the list and talking about some of the ideas at your Grange meetings, you can discover new ways to help those around you. Ideas range from items to collect for donation purposes to activities to participate in to gifts of time.

A reminder – claim your good works! Put labels on items you donate (when appropriate), ask if you can leave Grange brochures or a flyer at donation sites, have a sign at your booth, etc.

Winter (December – February)

- Partner with your local fire department to have Santa ride around the neighborhood and pass out candy canes.
- Make ornaments to give to shut-ins in your community.
- Sponsor a “Sweetheart Dinner” for couples in your area.
- Hold a winter clothing drive, hats, scarves, gloves, coats, etc., for the local homeless shelter.
- Host a New Year's Eve party complete with countdown. (Count down at an earlier hour so people can get home before dark, if needed.)
- Create an Angel Tree for a local nursing home. Tags are for items needed by the residents. See if you can place it in a library, church, etc. and have gifts (not wrapped) returned by a week or more before Christmas so you have time to check and deliver gifts.
- Make Christmas cards for local seniors or veterans.
- Christmas carol at the local nursing home or assisted living facility. Wear your Santa hats and take cookies for the staff!



Spring (March – May)

- Have an Easter bunny brunch at your Hall. Have the “cost” be items that you donate.
- Work with your VFW or other local organization to place new American flags on our Veterans graves.



- With permission, clean your local cemetery after winter clears.
- Participate in your local Memorial Day ceremonies. If none exist, create one in partnership with a local cemetery, VFW, etc.
- Plant flowers around your Hall, at a nursing home, etc. Beautify the surroundings for your community!
- Host a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser.

- Create a community memorial garden, where the community can come and sit on a bench and remember their loved ones.





The Junior Granger

Philip Vonada, Junior Grange Director
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Where did the year go? Wasn't it just yesterday that we were setting our resolutions for 2023?

I look around and wonder... what have I accomplished this year? But then I think... I am **so proud** of everything our Junior Grangers around the state have done this year. From volunteering at fairs & festivals or participating in roadside cleanups, to leading large community service projects and just celebrating being KIDS, our Junior Grangers know how to have FUN while working hard, too.

State Session is behind us already, and we had a great turnout for the Junior Jam, a full-to-the-brim contest room, and so much more. I want to thank Ann Riegel and Carlene Kleckner for planning a great Junior Jam this year! **A full list of winners will be included in the January/February issue.**

Junior Supporter of the Year

At this year's Session, I was especially excited to honor an incredible man with the Junior Supporter of the Year. Congratulations to **Andrew Kieffer** of Marion Grange in Berks County. Many of you have known Andrew as Gatekeeper, Assistant Steward, and Steward of the State Grange, but it's been my pleasure to have known "Andy" for nearly 25 years as a leader of our incredible Junior Grangers. He was State Junior Grange Prince from 1999-2000, Youth



Ambassador in 2004-2005, and Outstanding Young Patron for 2017-2018. In each of these capacities, he made working and advocating on behalf of the young members of our Granges a priority, encouraging them to step out of their shyness into leadership roles. If you've been at State Camp (or Berks County Camp), Andrew has been an incredible leader there, too, leading the drill & ritual workshops, holding down the fort and laying down the law (with fun!) in the boys' cabins, jumping into the games and slip and slide with the kids, and being the role model we should all aspire to be. I am proud to call Andy a friend and a mentor, and I'm very happy to give him this award. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

New Contests

We also announced some new contests for the Junior Grangers - use the snowy nights, cold weekends, and fun times to try some of our contests for 2024:

- Recycled Craft - Jeans/Denim
- Cooking Contest - Rice Krispies Treats
- Design a T-Shirt - Inspirational Quotes
- Pumpkin Decorating (categories remain the same)
- Scrapbook Page - Fun in the Sun
- Creative Writing - "All About Me!"
- Diamond Art
- Art Contests (Images or 3-D)
- Photo Contests

National Junior Grange Community Service

The quarterly focus for the National Junior Grange is **COMMUNITY SERVICE**. Over the holidays this year, there are hundreds of ways to get involved in service projects in your communities. Maybe it's collecting items to

QUARTER 4 FOCUS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MAKING PLANS AND TAKING ACTION TO
SERVE THE COMMUNITY AROUND YOU

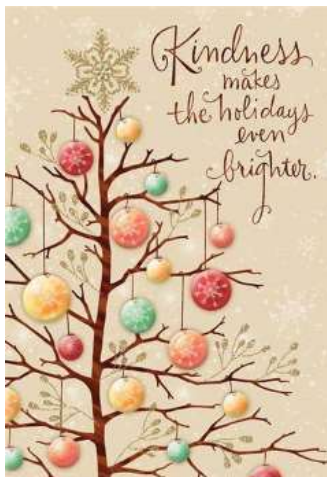


give to a local nursing home or senior center, creating Christmas cards to send to our military members or emergency workers, or delivering treats to teachers or other school workers. This website has some other creative ideas for how your Junior Grange (and families) can serve your communities: <https://homeschoolsuperfreak.com/ideas-for-service-projects/>

Don't forget to get your invitations in for our Junior Ambassadors, Gayle and Braden! They would LOVE to come out to your Granges, events, picnics, holiday parties, or more! Shoot me an email or call me to set it up.

Happy holidays, and - as always - be kind,

Phil



Secretary's Corner

Debbie Campbell, State Secretary
dcampbell@pagrange.org

The 151st State Grange Session is over, and Wayne and I are preparing to head to Niagara Falls, New York for the 157th National Grange Convention.

I would encourage you to attend this year's National Convention with it being so close. You can get both the Sixth and Seventh Degrees in one location. You can also enjoy the beautiful Niagara Falls and tour the area.

You will be able to attend the Convention meetings and witness debates, perhaps on a resolution from your Local or Pomona Grange.

The Holiday season is also a great time to recognize your members for their years of service to the Grange. Please place your order for the recognition certificates and seals at least four weeks in advance so you are assured of having them on time.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



Happy Holidays from your friends at the Pennsylvania State Grange office!

Enjoy these recipes at your holiday gatherings.

Cranberry Relish

*submitted by Philip Vonada,
PA Junior Grange Director, a favorite of the
Vonada family - from our Grandma Walters*

1 cup cranberries, ground
1 cup apples, ground (½ granny smith, ½
honeycrisp is a great combination!)
1 cup walnuts, ground
1 cup sugar
2 3oz. boxes of strawberry Jello
2 cups hot water

Mix the first four ingredients and let sit overnight. Dissolve Jello in hot water. Combine with ground mixture. Let stand a few hours and set. Then mix it all together to serve.

Simple Nut Rolls

*submitted by Dick Mangel,
PA State Grange Vice-President*

16 oz. softened cream cheese
6 c. flour
1 lb. butter or margarine
1 egg
1 c. milk

Soften cream cheese and butter. Mix all except flour with mixer. Begin adding flour to it is all in. Mix everything well. Shape into balls the size of walnuts. and chill dough overnight in a covered bowl. The next day, roll the balls in powdered sugar, roll out with rolling pin to you desired size (2" 4") but not thin. Cover with nut filling. Roll up and place on cookie sheet. Bake at 375 deg. until pale light brown. Remove from cookie sheet lay on a towel or cheese cloth to cool. They freeze well.

NUT FILLING: 3 lb. ground nuts, ½ sugar, ½ c. milk. Mix Well.

Barfing Cow Family Tradition

*submitted by Brittany Covey,
PA State Grange Office Secretary*

On my mom's side of the family, we have coffee creamers in the shape of a cow where the cream comes out of the cow's mouth. So, after lunch someone will usually get coffee and when they go to pour the creamer in we all yell 1, 2, 3, bleh, because it looks like the cow is barfing into their coffee. This tradition started with my great-grandmother, who had the original cow creamer. After she passed, my mom's one cousin got the creamer. As an adult, I started collecting cow creamers and currently have fourteen different ones in my collection.

Fruit Cocktail Cookies

*submitted by Ken Merritt,
PA State Grange Gatekeeper*

1 cup shortening
1 ½ cups sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp cloves
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp salt
2 tsp molasses
2 tsp soda, dissolved in 3 Tbsp. water
3 ½ cups flour
1 cup chopped nuts (walnuts)
1 cup of raisins
1 cup fruit cocktail, drained

Mix in order given. Drop by teaspoon/ tablespoon, depending on size of cookie you want, and roll in sugar. Bake on lightly greased cookie sheet at 375 degrees F for 10-15 minutes. Makes 6 dozen cookies, depending on size.

Christmas Eve Food Tradition

submitted by Ruth Vonada,
PA State Grange Executive Committee



Christmas Eve traditions:
We would choose a
country and make a meal
using foods and recipes
from that country. We

did China and had egg rolls and fried rice. Mexico was tacos. We also did meals from France, Germany, Greece, and many others. These are just a few I can remember. Following dinner, it is then over to church for candlelight services. After church it's more food with various appetizers and cookies.

Ham Cheddar Chowder

submitted by Rachel Brobst,
PA State Grange Ceres

*This is one of my favorites coming into the fall.
It's a one pot meal that sticks to your bones.*

1 ham steak, cubed
3 c cubed potatoes
1 small onion, diced
8-10 slices of bacon
2 c carrots, sliced into nickels
2 Tbsp chicken bouillon
3 c water
1 ½ c milk
¼ c butter
¼ c flour
3 c shredded cheddar cheese
Salt and Pepper to taste

Fry bacon until crispy, set aside. Using bacon grease, saute onions and carrots. Add water and potatoes and simmer until tender. Make a paste with flour and melted butter, fold into soup. Add bouillon, milk and ham - turn on low and fold in cheese. Stir occasionally as it can stick to the bottom. Add bacon crumble before serving. This stretches if you need by adding more water and milk. Cornstarch can also be used instead of butter and flour mix. (It doesn't add or take away from the taste.) I have to make a hearty stock pot full when making this. I seem to never have any leftovers to share.

Brussels Sprouts Gratin

submitted by Cindy Schlegel,
PA Family Activities Co-Director

1 lb. Brussels sprouts, deaned and trimmed
2 slices bacon, cut into ½ inch pieces
salt and ground black pepper to taste
½ cup heavy cream
¼ cup bread crumbs
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 Tbsp. butter, cut into tiny pieces

Preheat an oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Lightly grease an 8x8 baking dish. (Or a 9x13 baking dish for a large family) Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add the Brussels sprouts and cook uncovered until tender, about 8 minutes. Drain in a colander, then immediately immerse in ice water for several minutes until cold to stop the cooking process. Once the Brussels sprouts are cold, drain well, and cut in halves or quarters, depending on size. Set aside. Meanwhile, place the bacon in a large, deep skillet, and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until limp and lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat and stir in the Brussels sprouts. Season with salt and papper then toss for about 1 minutes to evenly distribute the seasonings. Arrange bacon and Brussels sprouts on the prepared baking dish. Pour cream evenly over the Brussels sprouts, then sprinkle breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese on top. Distribute pieces of butter over the bread crumbs. Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown and heated through, 20 to 25 minutes.



Brussels Sprouts Gratin

Christmas Crispies

*submitted by Ken Merritt,
PA State Grange Gatekeeper*

1 cup shortening
1 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
2 cups sifted flour
1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
2 cups quick-cooking oats
1 pkg (6 oz size) semi-sweet chocolate chips
¼ cup shredded coconut
1 jar maraschino cherries (4 oz. size), chopped

Cream together shortening and sugars; Add eggs and vanilla and beat well. Sift together flour, soda, baking powder, and salt. Add dry ingredients and oats; mix well. Add chocolate chips and chopped cherries; mix well. Drop from teaspoon on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 10- 12 minutes. Makes approximately 8 dozen cookies. (Optional- can roll the teaspoon of cookie dough in red or green sugar prior to baking.)

Harvest Potatoes

*submitted by Isabella Boone,
PA State Grange Flora*

This recipe is like a family tradition. It was my grandmother's recipe and even now after she passed, we still need to make it every year.

1 (32 oz) pkg. frozen hashbrowns, thawed
1 (10 ¾) can condensed cream of chicken soup (no water added)
1 cup sour cream
2 cups (8oz) bag shredded cheddar cheese
½ cup melted butter
1 tsp. salt
1 medium onion, diced

Mix well in bowl; put into a greased 13x9 cake pan. TOPPING: 2 cups cornflakes (crushed) and ¼ cup melted butter; mix well. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

Ribbon Salad

*submitted by Debbie Campbell,
PA State Grange Secretary*

I make this for the Serfass Family Christmas party, or I won't be invited. I also put it in little cups so they can be taken home.

2 (3 oz.) pkgs. Lime Jello
1 (8oz.) Cream cheese
5 cups hot water
1 (1 lb. 14 oz) can crushed pineapple
4 cups cold water
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 (3oz.) pkg. Lemon Jello
1 cup mayonnaise
½ cup miniature marshmallows
2 (3 oz.) pkgs. Cherry Jello
1 cup pineapple juice

Dissolve lime Jello in 2 cups hot water. Add 2 cups cold water, pour into 14x10x2 pan. Chill until partly set. Dissolve lemon Jello in 1-cup hot water in top of double boiler. Add marshmallows and stir to melt. Remove from heat. Add the drained pineapple juice and cream cheese. Beat until well blended and stir in pineapple. Use the mixer to beat in whipped cream and mayonnaise to get it really fine. Chill until thickened, about an hour. Pour in a layer over lime Jello. Dissolve cherry Jello in 2 cups hot water, add 2 cups cold water chill until thicker. Spoon over pineapple layer slowly to keep the center from getting it into the cherry Jello. Chill until firm.



Ribbon Salad

Christmas Tradition

*submitted by Henry Seidel,
PA State Grange Treasurer*

As with many families, my traditions have changed over the years. As a child we opened our presents Christmas morning and spent the afternoon with my mom's side of the family. We always had ham, played games and possibly even a little football. We would get together with my dad's parents on another date that worked in our schedules and often played Hausey. Upon getting married, fortunately, Madeline's family always gathered on Christmas Eve for dinner and presents. The highlights of this meal are kielbasa and pierogies, in addition to many of the items we all enjoy. Christmas morning remains for our immediate household.

Brushetta Chicken

*submitted by Jennifer Beamon,
PA State Grange Pomona*

1 cup tomatoes (finely cubed (such as roma tomatoes))
1 clove garlic (minced)
1 shallot (minced)
3 leaves basil (finely chopped)
2 tablespoon olive oil (divided)
½ teaspoon salt (or to taste)
½ teaspoon pepper (or to taste)
2 large chicken breasts (boneless, skinless cut in half lengthwise)
4 slices mozzarella cheese
¼ cup balsamic glaze

In a medium size bowl, mix the tomato, garlic, shallot, basil, and half of each the salt, pepper, and 1 tbsp of the olive oil. Taste for seasoning and set aside. Season the chicken with salt and pepper on both sides. Heat the remaining 1 tbsp of olive oil in a large skillet. Add chicken to the skillet and cook for about 3 to 4 min per side until browned. When chicken is cooked, top each piece with a slice of mozzarella. Cover with a lid and allow to melt. Remove from heat. Top each chicken breast with bruschetta and drizzle with balsamic glaze.

Scram-boli

*submitted by Jodi Keith Kensinger,
PA State Grange Chaplain*

For over 30 years (31 to be exact), my mom has been making stromboli for our Christmas eve tradition food. When my sister was around 3 years old, she was beginning to really talk and form words. But, she could not say STROMBOLI. Instead it always came out as "SCRAM-BOLI" and has just stuck as a nickname ever since. We always have a good laugh at the holidays over this memory. So, here is my mom's "scram-boli" recipe (super easy):

1 pkg of frozen bread dough (usually 3 logs of dough are in a pack)
1-2 jars of spaghetti sauce (either store bought or homemade)
1 pkg of pepperoni (or whatever kind of meat you want in place of pepperoni)
1 pack of cheese (or more because who doesn't love lots of cheese on their stromboli)
1 jar of mushrooms (small jar)
Onions
Peppers
Any other toppings

Allow the frozen bread dough to thaw out (usually 24 hrs prior to making it) and rise. Once its fully thawed out, spread some flour out on your countertop and stretch the dough out, long ways. Next, take your sauce and spread down the center of your dough (make sure you don't touch the edges). Once that's complete, add 1 pack of cheese in the center, followed by pepperoni on top. Pinch the sides together (and the ends too). Very carefully place the "scramboli" onto a cookie sheet. Repeat this method for the next 2 dough logs with whatever pizza toppings that you want (peppers, onions, mushrooms, etc--- In our family, my mom knows that us kids didn't like any of those things and usually just made us a plain-jane pizza stromboli.). Place into the oven for 30-45 minutes at 350 degrees until the top is golden brown (and the dough isn't gooey in the middle or ends). Enjoy!!



Government Matters

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Summer Reflections

It is hard to believe another summer has come and gone and we are quickly approaching state session with the chance to gather and celebrate the 150th anniversary. Summer has been filled with many great Pennsylvania State Grange events and as always I enjoyed every one as a chance to connect with members from all over Pennsylvania.

Ag Progress Days was a particular success with a chance to elevate the Pennsylvania State Grange brand in the agriculture sphere. We participated in Congressman GT Thompson's Ag Summit, mingled with state House and Senate members at the annual Ag reception, met PSU President and US Senator John Fetterman.

Thanks to all the wonderful Grange volunteers who stepped up to help in the Grange booth, you are so appreciated. Looking forward to next summer already.

2023-24 Pennsylvania State Budget Update

As reported in the last issue of PGN, in early July the General Assembly passed a general appropriation bill (HB 611) totaling \$45.5 billion, 5% over last year's approved budget. The total is less than the Governor's proposal and much less than the budget previously approved by the House. Even with placing \$500 million into the Rainy Day Fund, approximately \$12 billion remains in reserves.

However, both Chambers left without officially signing the budget bill which had to happen prior to being enacted by the Governor. The Senate came in briefly on August 3 to sign the bill allowing much of the appropriated funds



to be sent out. However, for some funds to be spent by the government, a fiscal code (basically a set of instructions on how funding should be spent) still needs to be passed by both chambers. While the Senate passed a fiscal code on August 30th, the House has yet to return to session as of publication, however it is expected that the 2023-24 budget will finally be resolved when the House returns on September 25.

The Pennsylvania State Grange is happy that its priorities in Agriculture have been funded and will continue to work with the legislature to ensure that the industry is adequately funded.

President Matt Espensahde sits on panel at Agriculture Chairman's GT Thompson, Agriculture Summit.

Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson hosted his fifth annual Agriculture Summit on Monday, August 7 at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology in Pleasant Gap. The theme for this year's event was "Science, Innovation and Technology in American Agriculture".

Following opening comments by Thompson regarding the 2023 Farm Bill currently

being developed, Pennsylvania State Grange President Matt Espenshade joined Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman in discussions about emerging technologies in agriculture and their potential impact.

“Agriculture is one of the most technologically advanced industries. Ideas and concepts, which were not much more than science fiction when I was in high school, are now common everyday practices,” said Espenshade. He pointed to research that has led to the development of crops resistant to insects, drought and specific herbicides. Autonomous robotic units are now used on dairy farms to milk cows.

Espenshade also noted that precision agriculture has become a defining component of modern farming practices. Today’s technology allows pesticides and fertilizers to be placed where needed rather than blanketing an entire field, saving time and money. However, this capability is often dependent on GPS capabilities and access to reliable broadband, a long-standing priority for the Grange.

“These components are becoming standard equipment on today’s sprayers and other farm machinery. The question becomes whether you can use it. If not, you’re at a competitive disadvantage with your neighbors who can,” said Espenshade.

Broadband access has also become critical in rural areas due to the closure of local hospitals and medical centers, making telemedicine not just a luxury, but a necessity.

While flying drones has become a recreational activity for many Americans, these can be used as tools to analyze wide swaths of fields, determining conditions where additional inputs would yield the greatest results.

As technology on the farm continues to evolve,

the future will require a support workforce that can address breakdowns and make various systems work in unison. Collaborative efforts between educational institutions and government agencies must be taken now to cultivate an interest in these fields amongst today’s students. There are good-paying jobs available that do not require a four-year college degree.

“Technology is great when it works. But who are you going to call when that flashing error light in your combine comes on, and will not reset,” questioned Espenshade.

Pennsylvania State Grange Speaks at Press Event on Solar in Adams County

In August, the Pennsylvania State Grange took part in a press event in Adams County with Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-Adams) to discuss Senate Bill 798 which would offer tax incentives for large-scale solar energy development on areas such as former industrial sites while restricting this development on prime farmland.



While emphasizing the Pennsylvania State Grange’s support for the solar industry, Cumberland Valley Grange #2104 member Lynn Dietrich shared policy-based concerns about solar development on prime farmland at Mastriano’s event on Aug. 15.

“While we’re embracing the growth of renewable energy, it’s imperative that there are guidelines in place to ensure that we protect our farmland,” Dietrich said. “Pennsylvania is home to some of the most fertile soils in the world and it’s our duty to protect and preserve them for generations to come.”

Dietrich said solar can present opportunities to producers, but it must be balanced with securing farmland for future generations. Senator Mastriano emphasized that his bill is “common sense legislation” stating that the bill protects prime farmland while fostering the growth of solar energy.

The event took place at Old Spring Farm which is the site of Iron Horse Inn Bed and Breakfast in Mount Joy Township, Adams County. The township is home to many residents who have worked in opposition to a proposed solar facility that would develop hundreds of acres of farmland. The project is currently moving through the courts.

The Pennsylvania State Grange approved policy in 2021 that formally opposes solar development on Class I and Class II farmland. A subcommittee on solar issues has been formed within the Pennsylvania State Grange to further study issue that are arising around solar development. We invite and encourage you to get involved if you are interested in the subject. For more information, please contact Carrie Nace at 717-424-5832 or carrie@nsallc.com.

Zoom Legislative Meetings

As a reminder we conduct a legislative zoom on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. If you are not already on the zoom invite list, please contact me at carrie@nsallc.com. I hope to see many of you attend.

Please remember to invite me to your legislative event or “Meet the Candidates” night at your Grange in the upcoming year.

(continued from Lecturer page 8)

Pen In Hand:

1. Poetry
2. Short Story
3. Why the Grange is Needed Today...

The updated Guide to Contests and Programs is available on the website and will likely be distributed at the State Grange session. Please consult the Guide for more details. As always, reach out to me with any questions!

Program Ideas

December

- There are many holidays celebrated during the month of December. Consider sharing information about these holidays – some of which may be unfamiliar to your members – that are celebrated during the Holiday Season.



January

- International Stop Spam Day – January 2nd

- Plan a program about cyber crime and how to prevent it. Reach out to your local police department, State Police, or a local financial institution to invite them to lead the program.



- Make Your Dream Come True Day – January 13th – Making your dreams come true takes effort and planning. How can your Grange make its dreams come true? Discuss what your Grange’s dreams are and come up with a game plan to make them reality!



NOVA K
STRATEGIC ADVISORS

Public Relations

Bernadette Comfort, Public Relations Consultant
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Promoting Your Grange

November and December present organizations great opportunities to increase their public image and promote their organization. This may seem counterintuitive as November and December are often the busiest months of the year for individuals and organizations, but that is precisely why these months offer such great public relations opportunities. It is during November and December that we celebrate several major holidays that present various community service opportunities. Grangers are very generous and giving people. In fact, part of the Grange motto reads **“In all things; charity”** and our mission charges us to **“create opportunity through legislation and community service.”**

Public relations for your local Grange often begins with a great story. What better story than one that highlights an act of service to the community? As your local Grange makes plans for your holiday service projects your public relations coordinator needs to make plans to promote your projects by reaching out to your local media. Reporters want to write about positive things happening in the community. Plan your food drive or toy drive today but don't forget to invite local press to cover the event to promote all the great opportunities to give back to the community that the Grange offers.

Don't limit your public relations efforts to group activities only. Many individual Grange members are doing things in the community that are noteworthy as well. Grange members activities and accomplishments should be promoted as well and in turn these activities and accomplishments will help you promote your Grange as a whole.

Key to promoting your Grange is developing a relationship with members of your local media. Reach out to your local newspaper staff to introduce yourself and the Grange. Offer to have your President or other officers meet with the press and invite reporters to cover your events. If your county or area has a local radio station/show, this can be a real opportunity to have your officers interviewed or to promote your upcoming Grange events. Don't forget to send pictures and an email detailing all your great community service events to Bernie Comfort at bernie@nsallc.com so that the Pennsylvania Grange can celebrate your accomplishments too.

Another way to promote your organization

Earned media is another great way to “get your organization in the news.” Identify a leader or spokesperson in your Grange that will submit an opinion piece to your local newspaper. Opinion pieces are either in the form of a letter to the editor or an op-ed. Letters to the editor are generally 150 to 200 words where an op-ed is a longer opinion piece typically 400 to 600 words in length. Earned media is essentially free publicity and the topics can be a persuasive opinion piece or a positive piece expressing support for a group or activity. Letters to the editor are a great way for members to promote an activity hosted or sponsored by your organization. Op-ed pieces are a great way for a leader of your organization to advance an opinion about a topic or legislative issue your Grange is passionate about.

For help in learning where and how to submit a letter to the editor or op-ed, contact Bernie Comfort at bernie@nsallc.com.

Subordinate Spotlight

Shermanata Grange #1796 Perry County

Kickin' Up Their Heels Keeps Grange In Motion

For more than a century, Grange halls have not only been a place for members to gather to discuss the important issues of the day, but also served as a social centerpiece of the community. This is certainly true at Shermanata Grange #1796, where after 40 years of hosting social dances, a new generation has taken the lead, making monthly "Hoedown" and "Square Dance" events a growing local attraction.

Speak to the members of Shermanata Grange, and you'll understand they have been blessed by previous generations. Their Grange Hall features a raised stage and open floor plan, which lends itself extremely well to dances, music events, parties, and more.

From an early age, Autumn Moore attended these events with her brother, Canyon. However, an unexpected last-minute cancellation of a dance at another location in December 2021 opened the door for a partnership with the local Grange in Perry County.

"My friend Mikayla Foster and I didn't want to let a possible evening of dancing go to waste. The biggest challenge was finding a dance floor in the area. After a few hours of contemplation and correspondence, we found an ideal venue - our hometown's Shermanata Grange," said Moore.

The Shermanata Grange Square Dances currently operate as a bi-weekly event (2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, September-May). Additionally, a separate monthly gathering hosted by Autumn and Mikayla features a mixture of dance styles; therefore,

they call them "hoedowns" - just a good ole' night of dancing. Together, the girls serve as the primary dance instructors/callers. The dance styles consist of historical social dances, typical square dances, swing, and the occasional line dance.

Autumn and Mikayla agree that "the goal is to provide a fun, family-oriented, wholesome event that weaves together old-fashioned dancing, period music, and a multi-generational social function that ultimately brings the community together. We don't expect our guests to dance perfectly for competition or historical accuracy. We just hope that they learn something new while laughing and smiling!"

To ensure beginning dancers are included, at the hoedowns, every set dance is taught. Autumn and Mikayla walk dancers through the moves/calls before playing music. Once the music starts, they 'call' for a bit and then the dancers are on their own. Typically, experienced dancers are scattered throughout the dance floor, helping the beginners and each other all while smiling cheerily. Everyone is eager to learn!

Most dances are historical social dances (Civil War era dances / Victorian Ballroom / Barn dances) which are danced in circles, squares, or reel formations. A majority of the dances originated before the typical square dance, so many of the moves are similar but with a slight twist or different call.

On dance nights, visitors will hear wonderful music performed by Keepin' It Simple (Goldie Keys, Bob Hetrick, Nelson Steffy, & Joyce Cassel) drifting across the Shermanata Grange hall floor. Guests are encouraged to wear whatever is comfortable for dancing, but

they're always welcome to come in Civil War-period attire. Some ladies have a ball with this, dressing up and borrowing items from each other, fulfilling their 'princess dreams'. "The evening is a chance to don your best finery and dance the night away with friends," said Mikayla Foster.

The value of these activities is not lost on Brent Yohn, Master of Shermanata Grange.

"The young dancers who attend these events are filled with energy. We love that younger people have the initiative to produce these dances at Shermanata Grange. It gives our Grange another way to serve the four or five communities in our area," said Yohn.

"At Shermanata Grange we have a magnificent building that has been left to us by generations of prior members. It does need updates though. But through our efforts, we have gone from a Grange that was behind in dues and barely open, to a group that is strong enough to go another 4 or 5 years even without many new members. When we were kind of reorganized the summer of 2022, we probably received 14 new members. As Master, I know most of the new members like to square dance and don't want to lose their location to dance.

As long as the building is open, I believe we can maintain our membership and maybe get stronger."

Autumn, who is a member of Shermanata Grange, shared that they are always brainstorming new ideas and trying to improve the dance events. Currently, they are seeking ways to raise additional funds to make necessary repairs to the hall so that dancers can continue to enjoy these multigenerational events, where attendees range from toddlers to people over age 70.

"Attendance continues to grow, and oddly enough, word of mouth has been the best promoter of these dances. Often, we have individuals who come solely for the relaxing music, socialization, and to watch the dancers twirl around the floor," said Moore.

The next dance event is slated for Saturday, November 18. Interested individuals can search the "Shermanata Grange- Duncannon, PA" Facebook page or contact Brent Yohn bmw2002@pa.net (Shermanata Grange Master) or Autumn Moore afiddler4evermoore@gmail.com (Hoedown Coordinator) for more information.



Attendees of the September 2023 "Hoedown" at Shermanata Grange

New Year's Eve Drops Across Pennsylvania

By: Brittany Covey

Do you ever wonder what other towns “drop” or “raise” on New Year’s Eve and why? Here is a list of odd things that are dopped or raised to celebrate the New Year across Pennsylvania.

EASTON, Northampton County

In Easton, PA, they drop a Crayola Crayon from the sky at midnight. Easton is home of the Crayola Factory, so it makes sense that they drop a crayon to celebrate..

SUNBURY, Northumberland County

Thomas Edison came to Sunbury in 1883 to supply the the town with three-wire electric lighting system. The first light was on the City Hotel, now called The Edison Hotel, which Thomas Edison turned on the switch on July 4, 1883. Now, they raise a lightbulb for the countdown and then it lights up at midnight.

BEAVERTOWN, Snyder County

Any guesses on what they drop in Beavertown? You guessed it, a 6-foot long beaver.

PITTSBURGH, Allegheny County

Pittsburgh shows their eco-friendly side with dropping a 1,000 pound ball of recycled materials, called the “Future of Pittsburgh”.



CARLISLE, Cumberland County

A mini Indycar drops from the sky on New Year’s Eve in Carlisle in honor of the many car shows throughout the year held at the Carlisle Fairgrounds. I mean it is Car-lisle.

MCLURE, Snyder County

A soup kettle is dropped in honor of the McClure Bean Soup Festival. The bean soup dinners started as a reunion for Civil War soldiers. I wonder if Grangers were involved.

NEW BLOOMFIELD, Perry County

Some huckleberry plants in New Bloomfield have been there for over 1,000 years. That is why they ring in the New Year by dropping a giant Huckleberry.

PLAINS, Luzerne County

They drop a brick to start the New Year. In the center of town there is a brick wall you can sit on and hang out with friends at. If you say “meet me at the brick” everyone knows where you are talking about. So in 2022, town officials decided to start a new fun tradition by dropping a brick.



BETHLEHEM, Lehigh & Northampton Counties

A giant 400 pound peep marshmallow is dropped on December 31. Bethlehem is home of the peep marshmallow manufacturer, Just Born Quality Confections. Too bad the giant marshmallow isn’t edible.

RED LION, York County

York County used to house 150 cigar factories, which is why in this city, they raise a lion holding up a cigar to ring in the New Year.

ICKESBURG, Perry County

The small town of Ickesburg holds many community events throughout the year and the local firehouse is known for their french fries. So, they drop a french fry to celebrate.

FALMOUTH, Lancaster County

Falmouth is home to a Goat Race every September. So, the idea of dropping a stuffed goat on New Year’s started as a joke. Even though the goat drop is no longer held, this funny tradition happened for more than 20 years.

HARRISBURG, Dauphin County

A strawberry is dropped in the State Capitol due to street name and shopping center called Strawberry Square.



BRADFORD, McKean County

A lighted model gazebo drops to ring in the New Year in Bradford. Before the gazebo, they dropped a ball, but the ball drop didn't happen every year.

POTTSVILLE, Schuylkill County

In 1829, the Yuengling Brewery opened, and is currently the oldest operating brewery in the United States. It makes sense that Pottsville would raise a bottle Yuengling beer to celebrate.

MCVEYTOWN, Mifflin County

In honor of Harshbargers Malt Shop, they drop an ice cream cake from the sky. Harshbargers Malt Shop is a 50's themed restaurant and ice cream shop. Fun fact: Harshbargers has a location in Port Royal, right down the road from the State Grange office. If you ever visit the office, we would highly recommend eating there before heading back home.

LEBANON, Lebanon County

I bet you can't guess what gets dropped in Lebanon. Of course it's a Lebanon Bologna! This is a real 200 pound bologna, that then gets distributed to food banks and animal shelters around the city.

KENNETT SQUARE, Chester County



Known as the mushroom capitol of the world, Kennett Square drops a 700 pound stainless steel mushroom at midnight.

MIFFLINTOWN, Juniata County

Paying respect to one of the counties oldest bridges, Mifflintown drops a replica of the Mifflin Bridge, at the courthouse in the middle of town.

GETTYSBURG, Adams County

Abraham Lincoln made Gettysburg famous with the Gettysburg Address. To pay homage to President Lincoln, Gettysburg raises a 14-foot tall lighted stovepipe hat, made of aluminum.

HELLAM, York County



Hellam is best known for its famous Haines Shoe House, which is an actual house in the shape of a work boot, built in 1948 by a shoe salesman. Hellam drops a replica of the shoe house to celebrate.

MYERSTOWN, Lebanon County

The Bayer aspirin company is has manufacturing facility in Myerstown. Myerstown drops a 6 foot Bayer aspirin tablet.

MECHANICSBURG, Cumberland County

Mechanics make you think of cars, right? Well, that's a close guess to what they drop on New Year's. Mechanicsburg actually drops a wrench to celebrate!

WILLIAMSPORT, Lycoming County

Every August, Williamsport hosts the Little League World Series. Every December 31, they drop a baseball bat to honor Little Leaguers everywhere. Also, if you are ever in Williamsport, check out the Little League Hall of Fame museum.

PORT ROYAL, Juniata County

If you ever want to see a full-sized Sprint car drop from the sky, head over to Port Royal Speedway to ring in the New Year.



ERIE, Erie County

At Splash Lagoon Indoor Waterpark Resort, you can enjoy the indoor water park as well as a ball drop at midnight. The pool is an 84 degree tropical paradise. The entire waterpark is about 80,000 square feet, so be sure to check them out even if it isn't New Year's Eve.

Granges in Action....

CENTRE HILL #885



In October, members of the Centre Hill Grange hosted a Chicken and Waffles dinner. It was a fabulous time filled with fun and fellowship with members of the community.

PIONEER #1777

Members of the Pioneer Grange # 1777 in Pennsylvania have been busy preparing for their "Words for Thirds" Program. A dictionary is given to each 3rd grade student in the Brandywine Heights School District. Over the past 20 years of participating in The Dictionary Project, the club has donated over 2,400 dictionaries.



BUTLER COUNTY POMONA

Virginia Mangel put this display together for the Butler County Fair. The map is of Pennsylvania and the information on the map show how many farms and how many farm acres are in each county. A ton of people stopped by the display to read the information.



HILLCREST #1674

David Hay is well known around Somerset County. This year Dave was honored with three 50-year milestones. The first marking 50 years as a newspaper writer and historian. Dave and his wife Virginia celebrated their 50 year wedding anniversary in June. In August, the third milestone was honored by serving as Lecturer of Hillcrest Grange for the last 5 decades. Congratulations to Dave for his three huge milestones this year!



GRASSROOTS #2112



Grassroots Grange held a pot luck/membership drive on July 23rd to let the community know that there is a Grange in Indiana County. It was a very successful event for Pennsylvania's newest Grange.

STONY POINT #1694 ATLANTIC #344 LOG CABIN UNITY #2110

Three Granges set up displays at the Jamestown Community Fair. Stony Point #1694 won First Place and Best of Show. Atlantic #344 won second place. At the Crawford County Fair, in Meadville, Atlantic won First Place.



ELIZABETHTOWN #2076



Sergeant Michael Bryant accepts a \$746 check from Community Service Chairperson Sue Espenshade. The donated funds are the proceeds of milkshake sales during the local National Night Out event, hosted by the Northwest Regional Police Department.



This is Jean Royal, winner of the Stony Point Grange Peach Pie Contest at the Jamestown Community Fair. This is the second year that the Grange has held this contest.



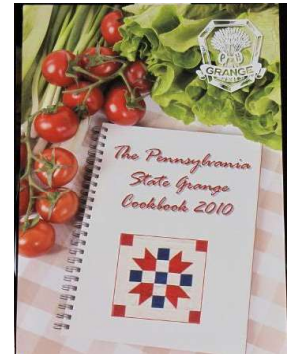


MARKETPLACE

Cookbooks

www.pagrang.org/grange-store

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.

WE ARE HAVING A CLEARANCE SALE!!!

Cases of 12 jars are \$27.

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

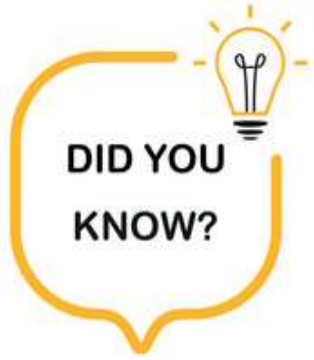
Progress Grange, Centre Co. Tammy Jurkowski 814.404.2460

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.



Grange Memorial Dormitory at Penn State University

In the early 1920's the Pennsylvania State College (later Penn State University) appealed to the citizens of the state to raise about \$2 million by voluntary subscription to overcome the pressing needs of the institution not being adequately met state and federal funds. Eventually this would lead to the erection of the Grange Memorial Dormitory on the campus at State College. At the December 1922

State Grange session in Williamsport, resolutions were presented by Pomona Granges in Clarion and Crawford Counties encouraging the Grange to provide support for the college. The adoption of this initiative resulted in a \$250,000 campaign to have each Grange member in the state voluntarily contribute one dollar annually for two successive years designated to build a dormitory for students pursuing agricultural courses. Some Granges immediately and enthusiastically contributed while others argued that providing sufficient funds to meet the needs of the college should be done by the Legislature. The campaign lagged until the Home Economics Committee decided to publish and sell a cookbook as a benefit for the dormitory project. The 167-page book was almost immediately a best seller and 42,000 copies of this first State Grange cookbook were sold, realizing a profit of \$12,600. The cookbook's success re-ignited interest in the dormitory project and by the time of the building's dedication in June 1929, a total of \$100,000 had been raised by the Granges of Pennsylvania; the balance of the building's cost was financed by the University. In September 1929 the first 102 women moved into the Grange Memorial Dormitory. Later it became a dormitory for graduate students and today houses various university administrative offices.

Grange Cookbook Classics

Norma's Chicken with Rice

½ cup margarine
1 cup regular rice
1 tsp instant onion flakes
1 tsp salt
1 10 ½ oz can mushroom soup

1 cup water
3 chicken breasts, cut in half, or 1 whole
chicken cut up
course black pepper

Melt margarine in a 9x13 inch baking pan. Stir in rice, onion flakes, salt, soup and water. Place chicken breasts over top of mixture. Sprinkle with pepper. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 1-1 ¼ hours.

Serves 6.

Ruth Kephart, Decatur Grange #2067



This recipe can be found in the 1972 edition of the Pennsylvania State Grange Cookbook.



Welcome New Members

Keystone #2

Gary Hoover
Lexa Embree

Sanatoga #25

Robert Borneman

Howard #297

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Autumn Hanley

Butch Hanley

Linda Hanley

Lisa Skoipek

Lydia Kotzur Walters

Union #325

Doris Wilson

Warriors Mark #974

Francine Hamilton

Burgettstown #1502

Sarah D'urzo

Julie Sepesy

Ginger Hill #1549

Walter Seal

Sarah O'Brien

Sean O'Brien

Ontelaunee #1617

Kristin Newpher

Robert Newpher

Michele White

Reese Weddle

Wills #1690

Earlene O'Brien

Pioneer #1777

Grace Tempel

Liberty #1780

Nicole Ripley

Virginville #1832

Michael Rivera

Benjamin Haggerty

Maria Bogdanova-Peifer

Jaxon Seidel

Hookstown #1980

Jessica Hudack

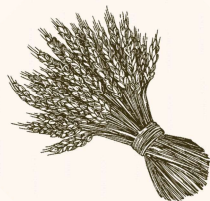
Kieara Daniels

Grassroots #2112

David Heilman

Zach Jobe

Amy Amino



In Memoriam

"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant..."

Progress #96

Fred Burris

Windfall #257

Whitney Warren

Hartslog Valley #375

William Anderson

Tuscarora #774

Harold Shearer

California #941

Joyce Roth

John Pfleeger

Oliver #1069

Beth Maurer

Harveys-Aleppo #1444

Rozella Amos

Pleasant Hill #1505

Ronald Hazen

Ontelaunee #1617

Ruth Rausch

Dayton #1819

Twila Wassum

Virginville #1832

James Adam

Anna McCauley

Adeline Miller

Fleetwood #1839

Hope Kniss

Ethel Heffner

Frankfort Springs #1989

Lena Cool

Shenango Township #2057

Kathy Bailey

Sanatoga #25
 Kathryn Geist
 July 1928
 Jeanne Long
 February 1933
 Franklin Renninger
 April 1933
 Doris Callow
 December 1929
 M. Louise Karns
 February 1931



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-2024

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

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

FEBRUARY

19: President's Day

MARCH

10: Daylight Savings Time Begins
 31: Easter

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

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

JULY

4: Independence Day
 18-21: Family Festival; Centre County
 Fairgrounds



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.