

January/February 2021

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**GRANGE NEWS**





# Winter Garden Activity Guide

Lisa Marie Bernardo, Master Gardener, Butler County, PA

Penn State Extension

**Even in winter, planning, equipment preparation, and care of trees and shrubs can help get gardeners ready for the growing season.**

## Planning

Finalize your vegetable and flower garden plans. Research and select the plant varieties, as well as the number of plants required for your desired harvest. Draw your plans on paper or take photographs; measure your garden plots for greater accuracy in determining the number of seeds and plants you will need. Purchase a paper notebook or a flash drive to start this year's garden journal.

## Equipment preparation

Inventory your seed-starting supplies and equipment. Based on your garden size, determine the number of seedlings you want for yourself and perhaps for family and friends. Decide if you want to use peat pots, plastic trays or other containers. Assure that you have enough seed starter medium, pots, seeds, and trays. Check your light source and replace bulbs if needed. Onions and leeks can be started in early February.

Inspect your garden tools. Decide which tools to keep, replace or donate. Research new tools that you may need. If not completed in the fall, clean tools and repair broken ones. Sharpen shears and pruners.

Take stock of your gardening accessories, such as tomato cages, labels, and containers. Repair and clean items as needed.

Look over your gardening attire. Wash or purchase new gardening gloves. Replace gloves that have holes and tatters, which can allow soil or chemicals onto your hands. Look over gardening shoes and boots and repair or replace damaged footwear. Having sturdy footwear prevents foot injuries and promotes balance while working outdoors

## Indoor plants

Give your indoor house plants some much-needed attention. Wipe leaves with a damp cloth, removing any holiday dust and glitter. Keep the soil moist but not soggy, as soils tend to dry out more quickly during the winter months. Snip away dead or discolored leaves. Inspect leaves and stems for signs of insects, such as mealybugs and scale. Isolate and treat plants that appear to be infected or discard the plants in the trash.

Holiday flowering plants after-bloom care:

Place poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) in bright light and keep the soil moist. Discard poinsettias that lose their leaves or show signs of insects or disease.

Pinch off spent blooms from the Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera* spp.) and keep this plant in bright light with moist soil.

Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*) tubers should continue to bloom during the winter months. Avoid wetting the leaves and stems and drain away excess water to prevent tuber rot. Pluck faded flowers and leaves from the plant.



New leaves and blooms may appear during the blooming cycle. Offer fertilizer every other month.

Remove the floral stalk from your amaryllis (*Hippeastrum* spp.) after the flowers have faded. Continue to water and fertilize the bulbs during the winter.

Paperwhite narcissus (*Narcissus tazetta*) bulbs can be discarded after blooming, as they are not likely to rebloom.

## Outdoor wildlife and plants

Keep bird feeders full, clean, and well-maintained. Pay attention to any destruction from large and small animals; repair broken feeders and replace damaged feeder parts.

Walk outdoors and prune dead limbs from trees and shrubs. Take note of exposed crowns of perennials such as coral bells and push them back into the soil. On warm days, watch for honey bees, and look for hellebore flowers and blooming witch hazels!

Give alkaline-loving shrubs, such as forsythia, lilac and caryopteris, a treat by sprinkling fireplace ashes around their base. Wood ashes contain phosphorus, considerable potassium and calcium, and traces of minor elements. (cont. on page 19)

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## From the President's Desk

**Wayne D. Campbell**

PA State Grange President

[president@pagrange.org](mailto:president@pagrange.org)

2020 is finally behind us! Unfortunately, the Covid 19 Pandemic is following us into 2021. We learned a lot in 2020 about what is important to us and those around us. We realized how what we take for granted every day can be lost in a heartbeat. That sudden trip to the grocery store for just an item or two, spending an evening with friends for a backyard BBQ, going to a concert, going to church, or even going to our local Grange meeting. All came to a sudden halt.

We've seen and are still witnessing restaurants and other businesses closing because they cannot pay their bills on the income provided with the low capacity limits they face. We must realize this all has a trickle-down effect. If a business closes, it's employees are now out of work. These people must now really cut back on what they buy and what bills are a priority. Reduced incomes affect other local businesses within our community.

It causes increased pressure on our health care system as a person's health suffers from additional stress. It causes increased mental health concerns as people struggle to find a way forward.

I've painted a very dark and dismal picture of where we are

today. It's up to each one of us to help create a light at the end of the tunnel. We need to be each other's support partner. We need to be there to take our neighbor, our parents, or a friend to the doctors. Buying local helps build up our local economy, it helps provide jobs in the communities in which we live, and it allows us to build a relationship with the person behind the counter. All of these things will help us to feel better about ourselves.



We can use ZOOM meetings or Google Meet to hold your Grange meeting and open them up to the public to include our friends and neighbors and introduce them to the Grange activities. No, these virtual meetings are not like in-person meetings, but they still allow us to connect with others when many are afraid to go out in public.

I have been joining the Pennsylvania State Grange Bingo game on Wednesday evenings.

I look forward to this because we have people joining us from Maine, Vermont, Florida, California, and Pennsylvania each week. It provides that social time we are all missing and so much desire. If you would like to join us, please send an email to [publicrelations@pagrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@pagrange.org) stating you would like to join us for the Wednesday night Bingo and we will send you an invitation.

We must stay positive in 2021. We must open our doors using new methods and "extend the hand of friendship" in new ways. 2020 has been such a trying year for everyone.

The National Grange is going to keep our existing theme throughout 2021. We will continue to "Cultivate Connections" where ever we can and use those connections to improve life in rural and urban America.

I hope and pray you all have a safe and happy New Year!

Fraternally,  
Wayne D. Campbell  
President  
Pennsylvania State Grange  
[president@pagrange.org](mailto:president@pagrange.org)







## Chaplain's Corner

### Jody Keith Kensinger

PA State Grange Chaplain

Happy New Year from Central Pennsylvania! My name is Jodi (Keith), Kensinger. I am honored to serve as your 2020-2022 PA State Grange Chaplain! My husband Ben and I live in Martinsburg (Blair Co.), and we are members at Lincoln Grange #914 In Huntingdon County. We live on Ben's family dairy farm, where they milk over 125 Holsteins and 1 Lineback. We have two house cats, Muffy and Casper, that have kept us on our toes. During the day, I am a Radiological technologist (aka Xray Tech) with Geisinger Health System in State College, PA. I enjoy spending time with my family, mainly my Grandpap Harry Keith, scrapbooking, and kayaking out on the lake in my spare time.

As I started to think about my first PGN article and the new year, I could not help but think about Noah's story and God's promise of the Rainbow. Because of a corrupt world at the time, God asked Noah to build an Ark out of cypress wood and tar. He was to make it big enough that he could fill it with 2 of every animal on the Earth. Then the rain came and flooded the whole world for 40 days and 40 nights. It destroyed everything except for the animals on the Ark and Noah and his family. After 100+ days on the ark, Noah sent a dove out, only to have it return with no luck at finding dry land.

A week later, he sent out the same dove to find dry land. This time it returned with an olive leaf in its beak, giving Noah and his family a great deal of hope that the waters were receding. Another week went by and Noah sent out the same dove, but this time, it did not return, letting Noah know that the bird had found dry land and a new beginning to live.



Once the Ark was opened and the animals released into the wild, God made a promise to Noah, putting a rainbow into the sky. In Genesis 9: 12-13 & 16, God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me & you & every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth..... Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting promise between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." God does not promise for life to be comfortable and full of sunny skies. What he does promise is for our life to be full and beautiful. He promises to be with us, through good times and bad, and to never forsake us.

Even though we feel powerless against the forces of 2020 (COVID, election, race issues) God gives us the opportunity through our faith to find the love and serenity in our own daily lives. I inspire each of you to look at the lessons that the past year taught us and look for the rainbow in your life and know that everything will be fine. With the beginning of a new year upon us, I encourage you to find the hope in what the new year could bring to all of us. They always say "New Year's Day is the blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one." This is the beginning of anything that you want.

Wikipedia states that a Rainbow is a natural phenomenon noted for its design and its place in the sky and a favorite component of art and religion throughout history. For me personally, whenever I see God's Rainbow after a hard day, I know in my heart that everything will be ok, and that God has everything under control. All I need to do is let it go and let God take over.

I would be remised if I did not give a shout out to Judy Pressler and thank her for all her wonderful readings, filled with powerful words of wisdom that she sent out! I know that I have big shoes to fill! Thank you so much Judy for everything! May all of you have a wonderful New Year, filled with love and happiness to last the entire year through!

God Bless & Love Always,  
Jodi Keith Kensinger  
sunflowercow19@yahoo.com







**Membership News**  
**Lizzie Bailey**  
**PA State Grange**  
**Membership & PR Director**

**Say goodbye to the old and embrace  
a new year with hope, dreams, and ambition!**

The old adage says, "This too shall pass." I'm happy to embrace 2021 in hopes of better days! There have been many lessons over the past year, but separation from everyone has been the hardest. I miss visiting you all and can't wait till things return to some sense of normalcy.

This is the perfect time though to be calling me and let's talk about where we go from here. There are many things we could be working on such as pre-planning, working on media, and sharing ways to still recruit new Grange members.

Please make sure to go to our website and visit the membership page to get digital files at [www.pagrangegrange.org/membership](http://www.pagrangegrange.org/membership),

if you need paper copies, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I would like to work with Granges in each region to schedule some virtual events to highlight your Grange in your area. It is a great way to showcase what the Grange is about to your community. I have been so impressed by all the community service projects. Your creativity in providing community service makes me so very proud!

Please continue to check on your neighbors, send cards, and try to do some virtual events if possible. The next couple months will be difficult times, and just having a reassuring voice, or a little note can make all the difference to

someone who may be feeling a little down or lonely. You can make all the difference in someone's day by just checking in on them.

I would like to challenge you to journal your experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic. We should document things we have done, things we haven't done, your feelings, what you are missing and so on. The records that the Grangers keep will tell our stories. It might be a time to create a pandemic time capsule for a future generation to open to share these memories.

**Zoom Meetings**

Pomona and Subordinate Granges, please call me to schedule a date and time we can Zoom conference to discuss your Grange, community, and ideas to move forward with activities, events, and recruiting new members.



**You're Invited...**

**Pennsylvania State Grange Zoom Bingo**

**Wednesdays**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
(zoom room will open at 6:30 to socialize!)

**Come join us for Bingo!!!**

**Please email, or text/call Lizzie with any questions!**  
**Email: [publicrelations@pagrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@pagrange.org) or Text/call: 717-254-9550**






## Facebook

Are you using social media to promote what your Grange is doing? Do you need Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram accounts? Let's schedule a date and time and we can work on this together and get your Grange active on social media.

## Press Releases & Grange News

Please make sure to email or call me about any events or awards, Grange news you have to share. I know we have Granges who are doing drive through events, etc. that we would like to share with others what the Grange is doing during the pandemic.

Please take advantage of any, or all of the following:

- In-Person Training (compliance with CDC Guidelines)
- Virtual Events/Zoom Meetings
- Training via Phone Calls
- Training via Conference Calls
- Zoom Meetings, Trainings, Socials
- Ad/Flyer Design for your event
- Media Press Releases

## Note to Self:

**You are not too old and it's not too late.**

### Questions & Answers

Q: Does your Grange have a Facebook page?

A: Call Lizzie, we will set one up.

Q: Are you advertising your events?

A: Call Lizzie, we can do this

together!

Q: Would your Grange like to host a Virtual Program for your community?

A: Let's do it, call Lizzie today!!!

Q: Are you having "in person" meetings?

A: Invite Lizzie to attend!

Q: Do you miss Grange socials?

A: Call Lizzie, let's brainstorm!

Let's talk, there are many things we can work on together during social distancing!

Stay safe and healthy!

Yours in Grange service,  
Lizzie Bailey  
PR/Membership Director  
717-254-9550 Cell  
717-737-8855 Office  
publicrelations@pagrange



**Deadline Extended!!!**

**150th Anniversary  
PA Grange Cookbook**

**The cookbook committee is making great progress on the cookbook, but would like to see more recipe submissions.**

**Deadline is extended to  
March 31, 2021.**

**Please email recipes:**

**secretary@pagrange.org  
150thcookbook@yahoo.com**

**or mail to:**

**150th Cookbook Committee  
PA State Grange  
20 Erford Road, Suite 216  
Lemoyne, PA. 17043**

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**Melanie Melius**  
**PA State Grange**  
**Family Activities Director**

## A Quilt and 19 Prizes Awarded!

Hello Everyone,  
 Hope everyone is still staying safe and healthy. My holidays were quiet this year, same as my New Year coming in quiet.

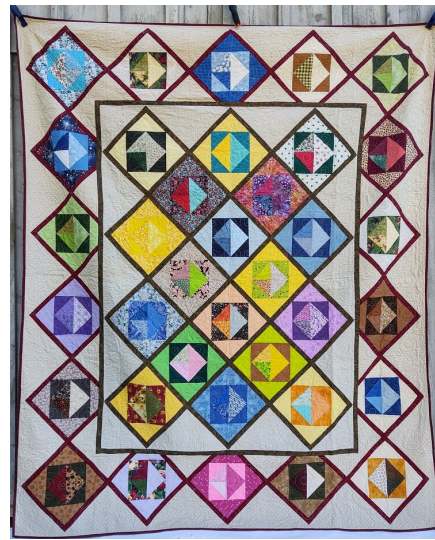
Everything went great last year. It was not the same being able to see everyone at session. There was less activity in the Family Activities room to check all the contests out and see who all won.

Thank you to all the Granges and members that gave their time to sell tickets. Selling tickets is very important as it financially supports our Family Activities department. We gave the Quilt and 19 prizes away this year. The donated prizes for the Quilt & More Raffle were so appreciated.

We had 2021 Contest papers and the New Quilt Block for everyone to take a picture on our table, for everyone to pick-up with Contest, Picture of Quilt, New Quilt block pattern w/ Picture of Colors (PURPLE) to use. So please ask if any of your Delegates picked up any of the Contest Papers to make copies for anyone that wants. If not please send me an email with your name and

address I will send them out to you. Please make some new contests to fill up the Family Activities room this year.

I will have 2 New Ladies added to my team this year Karen Poorman - Woolrich, PA and Isabella Boone - Warriors Mark, PA.



**2021 Family Activity Quilt**  
**"Remember Me"**

Hope to see Everyone in 2021 at the State Session.  
 Stay safe and Healthy.

Fraternally Yours  
 Melanie Melius  
 Family Activities Director  
 Email - melmelius59@gmail.com  
 Cell: (814)360-7058



## Contest Winners!

- Quilt** - Kelli Briggs - Avella, PA
- Christmas Door Hanger** - Bobbi Jo Solley - Edinburg, PA
- Fall Door Hanger** - Central Grange #1216
- Stainless steel Tumblers** - Sheila Donmoyer - Annville, PA
- Cashew nuts** - JV Lamb - New Castle, PA
- Crystal holder w/ Candle** - Mary Ann Haagen - Howard, PA
- Crystal Bowl** - Amy Koenig - Germansville, PA
- Subway gift card w/ Candy bar** - Mike Iannitelli - Phillipsburg, NJ
- Gift card #1** - Dorothy Zahn - New Castle, PA
- Gift card #2** - Grover Cleveland - Covington, PA
- Fall Basket** - Central Grange #1216
- Kitchen Basket** - Jeanette Finkle - Mill Creek, PA
- Christmas Basket** - Patricia Bird - Bellefonte, PA
- Fall Basket** - Central Grange #1216
- PA Maple Syrup** - Lurae Benzio - Industry, PA
- Fall Basket** - Phyllis Simmons - Fredericksburg, PA
- Apple Butter** - Pomona Grange #63 % Joyce Fortney
- Apple Butter** - Rachel Murphy - Lebanon, PA
- PA Maple Syrup** - Mary Rucinski - Williamsport, PA
- Gift card w/ 2 bottles of Sanitizer** - Marjorie Brown - Liberty, PA



**Jenn Nauss**  
**PA State Grange**  
**Lecturer**

*Granges across the state thought "outside the box" to tell their Grange story.*

Greetings from South Central PA!

I hope this article finds you and your families healthy and safe! I hope you had a blessed holiday season and wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year.

**State Session**

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Lecturer's Department's contests and programs in 2020. It was certainly a different year than any we've experienced, with many of the contests being moved to a virtual format because of COVID. We had many entries in the Virtual Photography Contest. The slideshow created from complete list of contest winners is included in this issue of the Grange News.

As I reviewed Lecturer's Reports and Scrapbooks, I was heartened to see how many Granges continued amazing work in their communities despite the many COVID roadblocks. Granges across the state thought "outside the box" to tell their Grange story in their communities through service, outreach, and fundraisers. COVID 19 certainly presents us with many challenges, but we can continue to serve our communities, connect with our members, and plan quality literary programs if we are willing to try something new. Consider using Zoom or another video conferencing program to meet virtually. If it is safe to do so, hold meetings with members wearing masks and keeping distance. At a time when everyone is craving connection, this is an opportunity for the Grange to fill that need - safely.

**Contests and Programs**

The 2020-21 Guide to Contests and Programs is available on the State Grange website or by contacting the State Grange office. The contests and programs detailed in the guide are still in place for this year. Please take a look at the guide and start planning your entries for 2021! We had very few entries in the "Design a Program" Contest this year and no applications for the Lecturer's Grant. I know that Grange Lecturers (and others) are planning quality programs throughout the year. Please take advantage of these opportunities to share your program ideas! Ideas will be compiled into a book for Granges and Lecturers. The Lecturer's Grant is a program to provide funding for Granges that have ideas for great educational programs, but may not have the resources to bring those ideas to fruition. More information can be found in the Guide to Contests and Programs or by contacting me at jnauss89@gmail.com.

**Regional Leadership Conferences**

I am still planning to hold regional leadership conferences later this spring. Tentatively mark your calendars for weekends in May for the regional conferences. We will offer three conferences - one in the east, one in the central region, and one in the west - to share leadership training and information from the State Grange departments. The departments are already hard at work planning workshops for the conferences. Please check the next PGN, as well as the State Grange website and regular email blasts, for more details as they become finalized. I appreciate everyone's support of these conferences last year and was saddened that we could not hold all of them. I remain hopeful we will be able to meet this spring!

**Program Ideas**

- Invite a medical professional to speak about the COVID vaccine that (at this time) is due to become available in the next few weeks. Debunk any myths about the vaccine and offer an opportunity for members and guests to ask questions about this. This could also be done via a virtual format, like Zoom. Host a virtual forum for members of your community to join in to learn more about this interesting topic and the Grange.
- If your Grange is meeting virtually, consider continuing to offer literary programs as part of your meetings. Guest speakers are likely well-versed in video conferencing technology and should be able to still talk about a topic or lead a program using these virtual means.
- If your Grange has suspended meetings at this time, consider how you can fulfill the Lecturer's purpose of providing educational and entertaining programs even though you're not meeting. Does your Grange send a newsletter? If so, include an informative article about a topic of interest to your members. Call members to check in with them and share a few minutes of conversation and fellowship.
- Jenn Nauss  
• Lecturer/Program Director
- Contest Winners are listed on  
• page 10 & 11.







## CONTEST



## WINNERS



### Talent Contest

#### **Vocal:**

1 - Philip Vonada, Penns Valley Grange #158, Centre County

**BEST OF SHOW:** Philip Vonada, Penns Valley Grange #158, Centre County

### Lecturer's Reports

#### **Subordinate:**

##### Up to 50 Members

1 - Ruthie Garner, Lincoln Grange #914, Huntingdon County

2 - Cheryl Miller, Marion Grange #223, Centre County

3 - Walter McChesney, Hartslog Valley Grange #375, Huntingdon County

4 - Marjorie Craven, Edgewood Grange #688, Bucks County

##### 51-99 Members

1 - Drew Fegley, Hookstown Grange #1980, Beaver County

2 - Nancy Sattazahn, Kutztown Grange #1836, Berks County

3 - Debra Kieffer, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County

4 - Holly Yearick, Walker Grange #2007, Centre County

##### 100+ Members

No entries

#### **Pomona:**

1 - Mary Jane Kent, Greene County Pomona Grange #63

2 - Georgette Mummert, Huntingdon County Pomona Grange #6

3 - Shirley Swires, Blair County Pomona Grange #37

4 - Audrey Brubaker, Lebanon County Pomona Grange #59

### Design a Program

1 - Tina Reich, Valley Grange #1360, York County - Veteran's Day

2 - Tina Reich, Valley Grange #1360, York County - Valentine's Day

### Lecturer's Grant

No applications

### Lecturer's Scrapbooks

#### **Subordinate:**

##### Up to 50 Members

1 - Cheryl Ruoss, Russellville Grange #91, Chester County

2 - Judy Stevenson, Wesley Grange #1675, Venango County

##### 51-99 Members

1 - Tammy Jurkowski, Progress Grange #96, Centre County

##### 100+ Members

1 - Brenda Lengel, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County

2 - Tina Reich, Valley Grange #1360, York County

#### **Pomona:**

1 - Nettie Kauffman, Berks County Pomona Grange #43

2 - Janet Fishovitz, Beaver County Pomona Grange #66

3 - Mary McMillin, Lawrence County Pomona Grange #65

### Creative Connections

#### Reports/Scrapbooks

#### **Class A - Granges who were able to hold their Open House**

No winning entries

#### **Class B - Granges who had planned their Open House but could not hold it**

#### **Subordinate:**

##### Up to 50 Members

1 - Tammy Schaeffer, Pioneer Grange #1777, Berks County

2 - Judy Stevenson, Wesley Grange #1675, Venango County

3 - Jen Beamon, Hamburg Grange #2103, Berks County

4 - Jason Gruber, Stony Point Grange #1694, Mercer County

##### 51-99 Members

1 - Jane Birk, Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County

2 - Drew Fegley, Hookstown Grange #1980, Beaver County

### 100+ Members

1 - Lorrie Wesner, Ontelaunee Grange #1617, Berks County

#### **Pomona:**

1 - Mary McMillin, Lawrence County Pomona Grange #65

#### **Class C - Granges who could not hold their Open House**

#### **Subordinate:**

##### Up to 50 Members

1 - Cheryl Ruoss, Russellville Grange #91, Chester County

2 - Bonnie Casselberry, Liberty Grange #1780, Lawrence County

3 - Walter McChesney, Hartslog Valley Grange #375, Huntingdon County

##### 51-99 Members

No winning entries

##### 100+ Members

1 - Brenda Lengel, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County

#### **Pomona:**

1 - Mary Jane Kent, Greene County Pomona Grange #63

#### **Pen in Hand**

#### **Class 1 - Poetry**

No entries

#### **Class 2 - Short Story**

1 - Meg Lomax, Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County

2 - Ashley Kolpak, Chester Valley Grange #1496, Chester County

#### **Class 3 - My favorite Grange memory...**

No entries

Continued on page 11.

Contest Winners Continued from page 10.

### **Photography**

#### **Class 1 - Pennsylvania - My Home**

- 1 - Marci Schlegel, Pioneer Grange #1777, Berks County
- 2 - Tammy Jurkowski, Progress Grange #96, Centre County
- 3 - Ashley Kolpak, Chester Valley Grange #1496, Chester County
- 4 - Molly Scott, Russellville Grange #91, Chester County

#### **Class 2 - Sunrise/Sunset**

- 1 - Jesse Garbrick, Progress Grange #96, Centre County
- 2 - Jim Snyder, Valley Grange #1360, York County
- 3 - Ashley Mohn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County
- 4 - Cindy Keith, Lincoln Grange #914, Huntingdon County

#### **Class 3 - Pets/Animals**

- 1 - Marci Schlegel, Pioneer Grange #1777, Berks County
- 2 - Cindy Keith, Lincoln Grange #914, Huntingdon County
- 3 - Wendy Martin, Valley Grange #1360, York County
- 4 - Ashley Kolpak, Chester Valley Grange #1496, Chester County

#### **Class 4 - Landscape**

- 1 - Ashley Kolpak, Chester Valley Grange #1496, Chester County
- 2 - Susan Snyder, Valley Grange #1360, York County
- 3 - Tim Schaeffer, Pioneer Grange #1777, Berks County
- 4 - Cindy Keith, Lincoln Grange #914, Huntingdon County

#### **Class 4b - Plants**

- 1 - Ashley Mohn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County
- 2 - Wendy Martin, Valley Grange #1360, York County
- 3 - Jesse Garbrick, Progress Grange #96, Centre County
- 4 - Shelley Fayewicz, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County

#### **Class 5 - Churches**

- 1 - Ashley Mohn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County
- 2 - Cindy Keith, Lincoln Grange #914, Huntingdon County
- 3 - Marci Schlegel, Pioneer Grange #1777, Berks County
- 4 - Mary McMillin, Westfield Grange #1514, Lawrence County



#### **Class 6 - Beauty in the Midst of Crisis**

- 1 - Ashley Mohn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County
- 2 - Deanna Hollabaugh, Watson Grange #1068, Warren County
- 3 - Philip Vonada, Penns Valley Grange #158, Centre County
- 4 - Hannah Leibensperger, Pioneer Grange #1777, Berks County

**BEST OF SHOW:** Ashley Mohn, Marion Grange #1853, Berks County - Beauty in the Midst of Crisis

*A photograph is the  
pause button of life.  
-unknown*



## **2021 Annual Pennsylvania State Grange Session**

Save the date to attend the 2021 PA State Grange Session, October 15-17, 2021 at the Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Avenue, King Of Prussia, PA 19406.

The Southeastern host committee has been working to plan a full session for 2021 including the traditional exhibits, banquets and activities for Youth and Juniors.

While you are visiting eastern PA, consider taking an extra day or two to explore all that the region has to offer, including the Valley Forge National Historical Park, among others, or take a short drive into the City of Philadelphia to visit Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of The Pennsylvania Grange News.

For those wishing to book early: The room rate at the Valley Forge Casino Resort is \$125.00 per night, plus tax (single/double). The rate is good 3 days pre- or post- session dates.

Book your room directly with the hotel to ensure you get the Grange's group rate and that the host region gets credit for their contracted room commitment. Book by calling the hotel directly at (610) 354-8118 Mention Group Block code: A1021GR, Pennsylvania State Grange and request rooms in the Valley Tower.

Please indicate your room preference (King, Double), the number of guests per room, and supply your contact information - First & Last Name, Address, Phone # and E-Mail - and a credit card to hold the reservation. We look forward to seeing everyone next October!

Jane Birk, Southeastern Committee





**History Committee**  
**Doug Bonsall**  
**PA State Grange History Director**

*Keynote Speaker Announced!!*

**Dr. Meecee Baker Keynotes at Anniversary Kickoff Luncheon** - Well known to Grange audiences after serving as Youth Princess in the 1970's and later as a state officer, we are pleased to announce that Sister Meecee of Juniata County will be the keynote speaker at the April 17, 2021, kick-off luncheon for the State Grange's 150th anniversary. Her topic Honoring Our History & Preserving Our Future will depart from the usual anniversary message of remembering past glories to ask the tough question "Is our history and its traditions hindering the Grange's future?"

Dr. Baker owns Versant Strategies, a premier governmental relations firm focused on agricultural, environmental, and rural issues representing dozens of clients in the Harrisburg and DC marketplace ranging from small farms and businesses to Fortune 500 companies. Baker's networking skills allow her to efficiently and effectively move client messages to advocate on their behalf. Previously, Dr. Baker served in the executive office of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and as a faculty member at Penn State, an adjunct professor at North Carolina State University, and was the first woman elected as president of the National Association of Agricultural Educators. She is known across the nation as a published author and columnist with frequent engagements as a motivational keynote speaker and workshop presenter.

**Tickets for Kick-Off Luncheon**

Tickets for the 150th anniversary kick-off luncheon on April 17, 2021, at the Country Cupboard Restaurant & Shoppes, Lewisburg, PA, may be reserved by contacting Anna May Nauss at: (717) 697-5104 or amnauss@aol.com. The price is \$25 for adults with children's prices ranging from \$2-\$12 depending on age. Early reservations are particularly important as we navigate through the COVID-19



pandemic; tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis to the permitted capacity of the restaurant banquet room. If it becomes necessary to limit the number of attendees, ticket orders will be filled in the date order received and refunds issued for any reservations that cannot be accommodated.

We continue to monitor the pandemic situation and will make a decision sometime in late February or early March if a postponement is advisable based on conditions or restrictions at that time. If the event is postponed until a later date, refunds will be issued for anyone unable to attend on the alternate date.

**Looking for Degree Teams** - Centre County Pomona #13 has come forward committing to exemplify the Fourth Degree at the 2022 state session. We are still looking for Granges, counties or other groups of patrons to exemplify the first and second degrees in 2021 at the session in Valley Forge and the third degree in 2022 at the session that will be held at a site still to be determined in south-central Pennsylvania. The goal is to exemplify the degree in full form with tableaux and, in as much as possible, with speaking parts memorized. To volunteer or for more information, contact Doug Bonsall, PO Box 765, D a u p h i n , P A 1 7 0 1 8 (douglas.b@verizon.net).

**Free Regalia/Grange Items** Lighting the Cake - There are still some candles on our anniversary cake available to be purchased but we have found that many persons are interested in the smaller denomination candles. Some friends and family have coordinated their support to buy one of the larger candles together but we still have a fair number of candles between #100-#150 available. We are changing our previous decision and will now allow multiple candles in the same amount to appear on the cake. So contact your Regional Anniversary Coordinator or Steve & Karen Mohn to buy whatever candle(s) you wish. - We're pleased to report that one Pomona Grange and three Subordinate Granges have taken up the offer to replace some of their worn regalia and implements with the extra items from closed Granges stored at the state office. Only those things in good condition have been retained and are being offered free of charge to any Grange that can use them; all you have to do is arrange for transportation from the State Grange office. If your Grange needs any regalia, staves, implements, manuals or songbooks, please contact Doug Bonsall with your request and we'll be glad to check if those item(s) are available.

Doug Bonsall, Chair  
 PA State Grange History Committee

**Please note important changes for kick-off luncheon tickets and purchase of anniversary cake candles!**





**Rachel Bailey**  
**PA State Grange**  
**Deaf and Community Service Director**

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**  
**– Helen Keller**

Hello Grange Friends,

My name is Rachel Bailey and although I am not new to Grange, I may be new to a lot of you. I have been a member of the Cumberland Valley Grange since 2006 and the newly established Capital Grange in Harrisburg that began early 2020. I have been a lifelong PA resident, growing up in Shippensburg but currently reside in New Cumberland. Through the years, I've enjoyed partaking in bake sales, parades, writing Christmas cards with the elderly, selling cookbooks at the Farm Show and a variety of other community events with the Cumberland Valley Grange. Outside of the Grange, I've taken joy in serving the homeless in downtown Harrisburg, volunteering at the Safe Harbor homeless shelter in Carlisle, sitting on the Youth Aid Panel of Cumberland County and teaching at a summer school church camp in Ounaminthe, Haiti. While volunteering diversely with multiple organizations, I take my Grange servitude with me everywhere I go.

Most recently, I have been enjoying my Wednesday evenings with you fellow Grangers for bingo night. My mother, Lizzie Bailey, had to lasso me in for virtual bingo in the Springtime in what I thought may last for a few weeks. I'll be the first to admit that the thought of playing bingo on a zoom chat was not that enticing to me. However, it only took that one night after participating for me to designate my Wednesday evenings for months to come. While it being a year of socially distanced, uncertain and unprecedented times, I would have never guessed I would have made friends from Vermont, to Florida and even California all just by attending virtual bingo.

I very much appreciate this opportunity to serve the Pennsylvania State Grange in this manner. While I am already swirling with ideas, I can't help but wonder what are the needs that your Grange is currently serving? Is there a community need that we can collectively provide for? More importantly, have you been wanting to serve on a state level? I am currently seeking volunteers to serve on a committee with me that will assist in planning for our upcoming community service events. I look forward to hearing your ideas, meeting you all at the upcoming 2021 festivities and serving the community in the name of Grange.

Rachel Bailey  
Email: [rachel.bailey120255@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.bailey120255@gmail.com)  
Phone: 717-816-1317



**Seeking Volunteers  
to serve on the  
Deaf and Community  
Services Committee!**







**Youth Committee**  
**Ellen Wadsworth**  
**PA State Grange Youth Director**



The Youth and Young Adults Department is kicking off 2021 with a BANG! We have a full schedule of activities planned for 2021 as well as a sensational new sponsorship program for the Youth Officer Team.

Our Grange Youth Mixer (GYM) kicks off via Zoom every 4th Sunday evening at 7 pm. Join us for a relaxing time to link up with youth and young adults friends from across the state. A relaxing and low key activity or discussion is planned for each month and the GYM fun kicks off on Sunday, January 24th at 7 pm.

It's easy to join in the fun either by computer or phone. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86719178861?pwd=RXRxZEF0TUVXam93NHFOYtPNDdEZz09>

or call +1-301-715-8592. The **Meeting ID: 867 1917 8861** and **Passcode: 224121**. This information will also be posted on the Youth and Young Adults FB page prior to each GYM so make sure you are a member of the FB group to receive the reminder. Drop in on Sunday, January 24th and see what's happening around the state! Other dates to make sure you have marked in your calendar are:

**March 19-21** - Mid Atlantic Leaders Conference (MALC) and Regional Youth Contests, hosted by Potomac Grange #1 (Washington DC) and held virtually. More info will be sent and posted as it arrives.

**April 23-25** - Pennsylvania Young Adults Weekend, planned for south central PA. More info will be sent and posted as it arrives.

**June 25-27** - Pennsylvania State Grange Youth Camp. The theme for Youth Camp is 2021 Grange Olympics. Save this weekend on your calendar and keep watch for registration information.

**July 15-18** - Pennsylvania State Grange Family Festival. Youth activities for this great weekend will include a Volleyball Tournament (start practicing now!), an exercise class (maybe Pounds this year), and a Road Rally! All attendees are eligible to participate in the Knowledge Test and our new Pennsylvania State Grange Outstanding Young Patrons will also be selected.

**July 20-25** - Grange Revival in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This is the 2nd Grange Revival and is designed to be a family friendly event for all Grange members and friends and family to create and strengthen fraternal bonds. If you are a "seasoned" youth member and miss the good old days of summer camp, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Don't miss out on this great event. More info is available on Facebook, search for Grange Revival 2021.

And there is so much more to come during the rest of 2021!!!

**NEW OPPORTUNITY!** Become a sponsor for a member of the Youth Officer Team. Beginning with the Youth Officer Team selected for the Pennsylvania State Grange Session in October 2021, the Youth Officers will be presented with an official Youth Team vest, including the Grange logo and their name embroidered on the front. It's time for our State Youth Team to have a distinct identifier, similar to those of the FFA and 4-H. The Youth and Young Adults Committee has selected gray vests for the Youth Team and black vests for sponsors.

To sponsor a member of the Youth Team and receive your own black vest, we are requesting a donation of at least \$100 to the Pennsylvania State Grange Youth Department. Donations can be made by Granges, individuals or small groups but only 1 supporter vest per \$100 will be

available. To sponsor a member of the Youth Team without a supporter vest, we are requesting a donation of at least \$60. If you have a specific office that you would like to sponsor, please annotate that on the form on the next page.

The Youth Team will be wearing their vest while participating in any Grange activity to show their pride in this great organization. Thank you for your help in recognizing our amazing Youth and Young Adults!

Wrapping up 2020: In spite of having no in-person Youth Contests during State Session this year, we do have some contest winners to announce from our virtual contests held earlier in October 2020. Congratulations to:

**Public Speaking.**

-**Prepared Speech (22-35)** 1st place - Jodi Keith Kensinger, Huntingdon Co.

- **Impromptu (22-35)** 1st place - Ashley Mohn, Berks Co.

-**Radio Spot (22-35)** 1st place - Ashley Mohn, Berks Co.

- **DIY Speech (22-35)** 1st place - Ashley Mohn, Berks Co.

**Grange Commercial** - 1st place - Ashley Mohn, Berks Co.

<https://youtu.be/VgWfDVZ8rm0>

**Create a Button** - 1st place - Ashley Kolpak, Chester Co.

-2nd place - Ashley Mohn, Berks Co.

**Grange Display** - 1st place - Ashley Kolpak, Chester Co., -2nd place - Ashley Mohn, Berks Co.

The Youth Committee also hosted our 2nd Virtual Paint Night on Zoom with Pumpkins highlighting the evening. Look for another Paint Night announcement coming in early 2021.

Fraternally,  
 Ellen M. Wadsworth  
 PA State Grange Youth and Young Adults  
 Director



Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

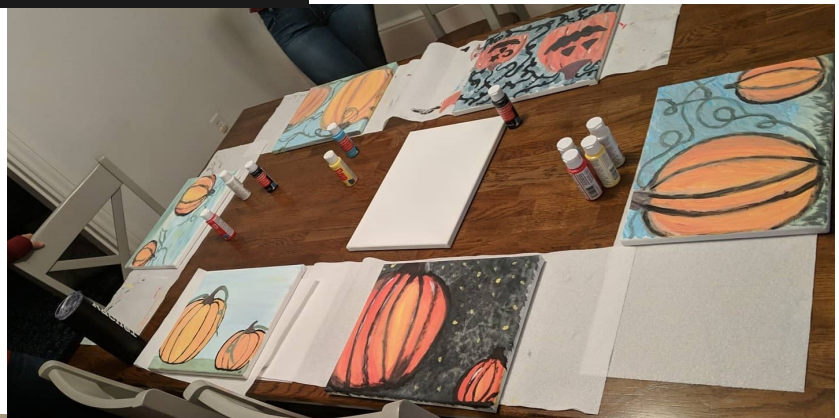
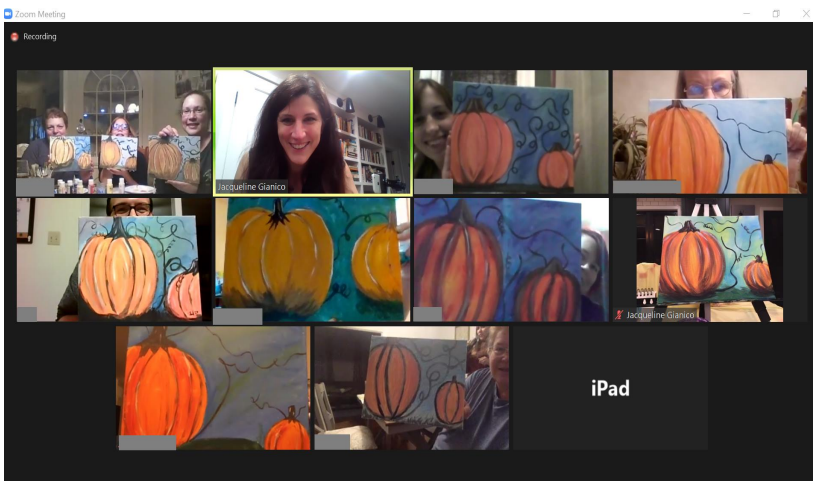
I/We would like to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ office

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: 362 University Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352





PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS FLYER TO YOUR GRANGE MEMBERS

# Light the Cake!

## Celebrating 150 Years of the Pennsylvania State Grange

This is the first fundraiser for the PA State Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023. All funds raised will be used to host the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Session in Reading in October 2023. This will be a special session with many commemorative events, including:

Full Conferral of the Sixth Degree  
Historical Pageant

Celebration Banquet  
State-Wide Service Projects

Every Grange and Granger in Pennsylvania has the opportunity to share in this important celebration! Help us make this dream a reality by donating to the 1-to-150 Fundraiser. Every donation is appreciated!

### How it works:

The PA State Grange Birthday Cake has 150 candles. Each candle costs the amount listed on the candle (the 1<sup>st</sup> candle costs \$1, the 150<sup>th</sup> candle costs \$150). Candles can be purchased in any order until all 150 candles have been sold. Donors will be recognized with their name on the candle they have purchased, which will be displayed on the cake.

The Birthday Cake will appear at all State Grange functions through 2020 and 2021. Candles can be purchased at the display or by contacting Karen Mohn at (610) 589-2473 or [askmohn@comcast.net](mailto:askmohn@comcast.net). Please contact Karen to find out which candles are still available for purchase; your preferred candle will be reserved until payment is received. Send payment with slip below.



LIGHT THE CAKE!

Please make check payable to: PA State Grange History Committee  
Mail to: Karen Mohn, 308 Mill Road, Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Candle Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grange Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_



**Join us to kick-off the celebrations for the PA State Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Eagle Grange #1 Open House**

Celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Eagle Grange #1 and drop by to learn more about Pennsylvania's historic first Grange near Williamsport

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
PA State Grange 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Kick-Off Luncheon and Program**

Kick-off the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a luncheon and program at the Country Cupboard in Lewisburg (a short drive from Eagle Grange #1)

**Turn the day into an outing!** Visit some of the many unique sites in the Williamsport-Lewisburg area. Email Doug Bonsall at [douglas.b@verizon.net](mailto:douglas.b@verizon.net) for a list of attractions to visit before and after these Grange events.

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICK-OFF  
SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending the Open House/Brunch at Eagle Grange #1, Montgomery, PA (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations for luncheon and program (Mark quantity next to price) – Held at Country Cupboard Restaurant & Shoppes, Lewisburg, PA (1:30 p.m.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 per adult (13+)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12.00 (11-12 years)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 (6-10 years)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$2.00 (0-5 years)

Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to: PA State Grange History Committee  
Please include self-addressed, stamped envelope for tickets to be mailed to you in advance of luncheon.

Mail ticket order form to: Anna May Nauss, 10 West Schoolside Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



## Celebrate Pennsylvania State Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Style!



In anticipation of the State Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, Pennsylvania's first Grange, Eagle #1, is selling commemorative t-shirts! Eagle Grange reaches their 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday in March 2021, thus beginning the celebrations leading up to the State Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023. Order a commemorative t-shirt to celebrate this State Grange milestone in style! The State Grange is holding a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-Off celebration on April 17, 2021 in Lewisburg. This will be the official kick-off of an 18-month-long celebration of the State Grange's 150 years of service. We invite everyone to wear this shirt for the festivities that day!

T-shirts are available in sizes S – 3XL while supplies last. The cost is \$12 per shirt. Shirts can be purchased in person at State Grange functions. Shirts can also be pre-ordered to guarantee the size you want and then picked up at State Grange functions by contacting Jenn Nauss. Shirts can also be shipped for \$6.00 per single shirt. Discounted shipping rates are available for multiple shirt orders that are being shipped to the same location. Contact Jenn Nauss prior to sending payment to determine what the shipping costs will be. Proceeds from shirt sales will support Eagle Grange's ongoing renewal efforts and renovations to the historic Grange Hall in Lycoming County.

Although shirts will be available for sale at the kick-off on April 17<sup>th</sup>, sizes available that day cannot be guaranteed. To ensure that you have a shirt to wear that day, please pre-order your shirt early! If you would like to avoid shipping costs, you may pre-order and pick up your reserved shirt that day.

Shirts can be ordered by contacting Jenn Nauss at (717) 512-1261 or [jnauss89@gmail.com](mailto:jnauss89@gmail.com). Payment and order form (below) should be sent to Jenn Nauss, 10 West Schoolside Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Checks can be made payable to Eagle Grange #1.

---

### Anniversary T-Shirt Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grange Name and # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Size (Mark Quantity Next to Size) - \$12 per shirt, plus \$6 shipping per single shirt (discounted shipping rates are available for multiple shirt orders being shipped to one location – contact Jenn Nauss before ordering for more information)

\_\_\_\_\_ S    \_\_\_\_\_ M    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ XL    \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL    \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL

Checks should be made payable to **Eagle Grange #1**. Payment and order form should be mailed to **Jenn Nauss, 10 West Schoolside Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

## Winter Garden (from page 2)

However, before applying wood ashes, it is best to have the results of a recent soil test and know the pH of your soil. If your pH is 7 or above, offer the ashes to a friend. According to Penn State Extension, in an un-leached form (directly from the stove or fireplace), wood ashes can often do more harm than good if not properly applied. The ash's alkalinity may raise the soil pH to a point at which other elements are unavailable. A good guideline is to apply dry, un-leached wood ashes at a maximum of 3 pounds per 100 square feet of soil surface in a single season.

Inspect tree trunks for large animal and rodent damage.

Assure that the plastic and wire tree trunk guards are secure. Adjust or replace dislodged or broken guards and inspect the tree trunk for damage.

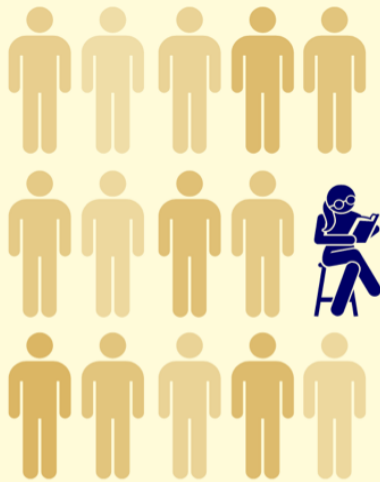
Remove dead, diseased or broken tree or shrub branches. Seek assistance for removing unsafe branches near homes, buildings and electrical wires. Photograph trees' branch structures in preparation for late winter pruning. The leafless branches afford the opportunity to evaluate overlapping branches and overall tree shape and size. Consult with an arborist, if needed.

Winter garden doldrums can be vanquished with basic plant and garden maintenance activities.



Just a friendly reminder that if you are submitting an article or Grange event please have them to the State Office by the 1st of the month prior to the issue. The March/April Issue deadline is February 1. Please email articles to [pagrange@pagrange.org](mailto:pagrange@pagrange.org).

You can also mail your articles and photos to  
Pennsylvania State Grange  
20 Erford Rd Suite 216  
Lemoyne, PA 17043



## BE INFORMED. BE THE CONNECTOR.

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERS FEEL DISCONNECTED FROM OUR NATIONWIDE FRATERNITY. STAY INFORMED ABOUT EVENTS, CONTESTS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR EVERY GRANGER BY READING OUR QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, GOOD DAY!, AND SHARE THE INSPIRING STORIES OF WHAT GRANGES ARE DOING AROUND THE NATION!

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**Junior Committee**  
**Phillip Vonada**  
**PA State Junior Grange Director**

**Welcome Philip Vonada!!!**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is feeling happy and refreshed from the holidays and ready for a brand new year! Let's make 2021 a year of excitement and fun.

I am so thrilled to have been asked to be Pennsylvania's next Junior Director. Many of our Juniors and adults know me already, but I'm going to take a moment to introduce myself. I am a lifetime member of Penns Valley Grange #158 in Centre County and also an affiliate member of Eagle Grange #1 in Lycoming County, where I live. I am a former member of the State Junior Committee, and I have previously been State Junior Prince, Youth Ambassador, and Outstanding Young Patron. I have also been a youth officer and Communication Fellow at National Grange, and have written articles for the National Grange's Good Day! magazine. In my "outside of Grange" life, I am the General Manager of the Community Theatre League in Williamsport, and I enjoy fitness, cooking, baking, reading, and performing.

I want to thank Lurae for the incredible work she has done with our Junior department over the past six years. It was an honor to work with her and the committee at all of the Junior events, and to watch the excitement and energy grow within our Juniors every year! I have some big red shoes to fill, and I'm looking forward to continuing and building on many of the events, awards, and more! Over the next two years, I am definitely going to

be turning to Lurae and her committee, as well as Junior Directors and parents from across the state, as I have a lot to learn.

Joining me on this adventure will be Junior Committee members from around the state:

- Jennifer Beamon, southeast
  - Ashley Furman, north central
  - Miranda Irons, northwest
  - Cassy Kehs, southeast
  - Tina Reich, south central
  - Christie Straub, northwest
- and Elisabeth Reich and Bryce Danko - PA Junior Grange Ambassadors

We are looking forward to starting virtual Junior meetups this winter and spring, connecting Juniors from across the state, and when it's safe for us to gather in person, we are hoping to have in-person regional meetups, too! Early this spring, there will also be a State Junior Director meeting on Zoom - stay tuned to the next issue for more details.

In the coming months, I would like Junior Granges across the state to start working on projects and contests - maybe a "K-Cup" recycled craft, iced drop cookies, creative writing, or honing your talents for the talent competition - all of the Pennsylvania State Junior Contests can be found in the 2020-2021 Guide to Contests. And also check out the new National Guide to contests and projects, too, like the Kelley Farm Project, passport program, Cape of Honor, and more! Feel free to reach out to me for a copy of either Guide. (And

for our "Juniors at Heart," there are contest categories for you to participate in, too!)

This year, I am also reminding and challenging everyone to be kind. The past year has been hard on everyone - parents, teachers, kids of all ages - and sometimes it's important to remember that the easiest and nicest thing you can do is to BE KIND to yourself and to everyone you meet. Later this spring, we will be working with the other committees from across the state in a Random Acts of Kindness campaign - but it's never too early to start! Find a way to help a classmate, neighbor, member of your church or your Grange - even the smallest acts go a long way!



I am looking forward to working with Junior Grangers and Junior Leaders from across the state in the coming years. If you have any ideas, any questions, any concerns - please reach out!

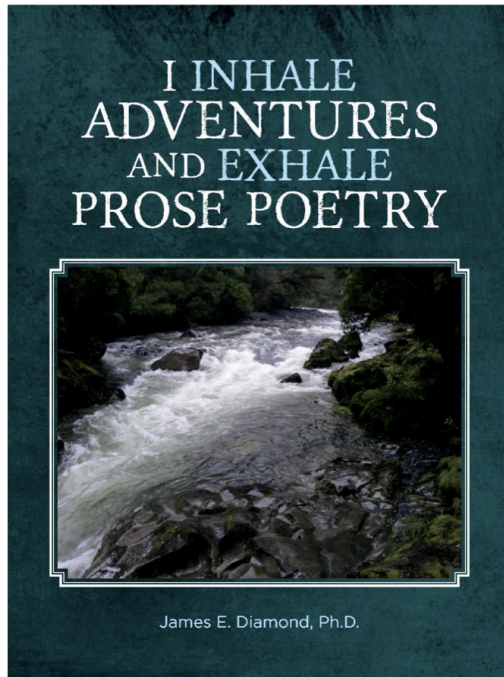
And don't forget about the 1+ program- any Subordinate/Community Grange can have a Junior Grange, starting with just ONE member! Read more about it here: <http://www.nationaljuniorgrange.org/what-is-a-1-junior-grange/>. To better serve all of our Junior Grangers across Pennsylvania, it's imperative that we know where our Juniors are, so even if you don't have a Junior Grange Charter, make sure to count them!

Thank you all, may you have a safe and happy new year,

Phillip Vonada  
 Junior Director



## A GIFT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EVERYTHING



My new book titled "I Inhale Adventures and Exhale Prose Poetry" is now available. It is a non-fiction publication where each poem reflects a personal experience. There are 429 pages containing 212 poems plus 128 terms defined in the glossary. For your convenience, it is available at this site:

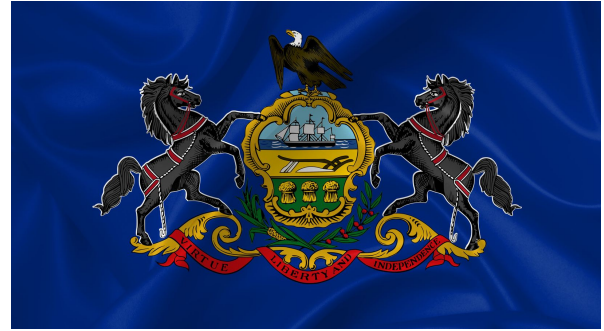
<https://store.bookbaby.com/book/I-Inhale-Adventures-and-Exhale-Prose-Poetry> . Prose poetry is a common form of literature. It is composed of sentences and paragraphs without a rhyming. It is sometimes called "ordinary writing" because its used in textbooks, essays, newspaper articles, short stories, and human

conversation to stimulate the reader's mind, emotions, and thoughts. According to Dr. Diamond, poems have different meanings to different people. Some perceive poems as an expression of love, sorrow, happiness or devotion. Others believe that poems are phrases of contentment or pleasure or enthusiasm or piety. Whatever the reason, the author of a poem is expressing inner feelings and emotions in a persuasive modus operandi that is without equal. Dr. Diamond's personal definition of a prose poem is as follows "A time honored means to reveal feelings unashamed that put into perspective life's impressions forever remembered." He goes on to say, "There is a plethora of emotions involved in life that people ought to have a means to express those inner emotional feelings without shame or embarrassment. My prose poem writing style is intended to express my thoughts, experiences, feelings, opinions, reactions, lessons and memories in the form of prose poetry that publicly express hallmark components of my persona unashamed and without restraints which is the basis for the title of this book, "I Inhale Adventures And Exhale Prose Poetry." I hope you enjoy reading it.





**Government Matters**  
**Vince Phillips**  
**PA State Grange Lobbyist**



ARTICLE GOV'T MATTERS 2020.5

**WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!**

The year 2021 brings a new legislative session of the General Assembly in Pennsylvania. Each year always means taking stock of where the Pennsylvania State Grange is legislatively and how to build on our successes from the year before.

And what a year it was. There is little to be gained by re-stating the obvious. COVID-19, the coronavirus, hit families and businesses hard. In addition to suffering from COVID-19, isolation caused problems of depression and anxiety.

In the State Capitol, the pandemic influenced everything done in Harrisburg from holding committee meetings remotely to literally closing the Capitol twice to the public in order to prevent the spike in infections from being even worse. COVID-19 hit everyone's way of life as we all adapted and coped with the pandemic.

There is a small anecdote that to me reflects all that change in a small but representative way. The Capitol Rotunda did not have a Christmas Tree in 2020 loaded

**Happy Retirement Vince Phillips!**

with handmade ornaments by elementary schoolers across the state. Rather, the Commonwealth installed a tree out in front of the Capitol so that people driving by could see something. But this is where the story gets interesting.

Two lawmakers went and got a six-foot tree and put it in the middle of the Rotunda where the towering evergreen was to have been placed. They decorated it, procured pianos from somewhere and played Christmas carols.

To me, this highlights what makes us so special. At the height of adversity, people will persevere and will promote the light of togetherness even in dark times.

As I hear it, the authors of this impromptu humble Christmas observance said that the staff who had to work in virtual isolation in Harrisburg should have an occasion to smile about. Grangers are like those legislators. We know the values that come with simply being people, always ready to help others and to bring hope by leading through example.

As I enter retirement from lobbying for the Pennsylvania State Grange personally, I look back and appreciate how outstanding the individuals, families, and communities making up the Grange are. In 2021, I look forward to Grangers embracing the spirit shown by those two lawmakers who knew they would persevere in bringing joy to others.

Conservative Republican Rep. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) and liberal Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Phila.) announced that they will try to forge a bipartisan Civility Caucus in the General Assembly. Hopefully, this will begin to undo the difficult and often antagonistic atmosphere that plagued Harrisburg this past year. I wish everyone the best.

I hope you will find things that brighten the world and share them with others as well. Another encouraging sign for our public officials is a December move by political opposites.

God bless.  
 Vince  
 Vince Phillips  
 Legislative Director

\*\*\*\*\*



## WHAT WILL BE HOT FOR 2021?

### LIABILITY PROTECTION LEGISLATION: AGRI-TOURISM FIGHT CONTINUES

On November 30, Governor Tom Wolf vetoed House Bill 1737. This legislation would have sheltered businesses, manufacturers of medical equipment, and healthcare providers from lawsuits by people who sued because they contracted COVID-19. This limited immunity from lawsuits would last as long as the Governor's Emergency Declaration is in effect. In his veto message, Governor Wolf said that HB 1737's "Shielding entities (manufacturers of the personal protective equipment, healthcare providers, schools, etc.) from liability in such a broad fashion invites the potential for carelessness and a disregard for public safety."

The Pennsylvania State Grange and numerous business groups such as The PA Coalition for Civil Justice Reform, the PA Manufacturers Association, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) all blasted the veto as showing support for the trial lawyers instead of protecting relevant businesses and others from unsubstantiated litigation. House Republicans have made it clear that they intend to keep pressing the liability protection issue.

During the legislative process, protection for farmers seeking to engage in agri-tourism (House Bill 134 sponsored by Rep. Barb Gleim-R-Cumberland) already circulated a sponsorship was folded into HB 1737.



Passage of limited liability for agritourism is a major priority memo December 2 for the 2021-22 legislative session. It says, in part, "Specifically, my legislation would protect agritourism business from lawsuits where no party is at fault for injuries or damages. The legislation would require that the farmers post multiple signs on their land warning visitors of the risks, or ask visitors to sign a waiver of liability before participating in activities. While the legislation provides some immunity from litigation, the right to sue is preserved if an owner acts in a grossly negligent manner or operates with no regard for public safety."

### BROADBAND

Make no mistake the Pennsylvania State Grange did exceptionally well in pursuing the goal of universal access of high-speed Broadband last year. Consider these examples:

### Passage of Senate Bill 835

(Langerholc-R-Cambria). It established the Broadband Authority to help coordinate state efforts to secure meaningful Broadband funding from the Federal Government. Along the way, it was amended to include language from House Bill 234 (Causer-R-Cameron, McKean, Potter) converting a tax credit for telecommunications investment into a Broadband grant program.

### Passage of House Bill 2438

(Owlett-R-Potter, Tioga, Bradford). This facilitates development of Broadband access by the rural electrical cooperatives.

(**Note:** National Grange was instrumental in the drive last century to have universal access to electricity by the rural electrical cooperatives.)

### Completion of a landmark Broadband Report by the PA Joint State Government Commission.

This report resulted from PA Senate Resolution 47 sponsored by Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) to convene a special task force and Advisory Committee to work through the multiple issues confronting the ultimate goal to provide all rural Pennsylvanians with contemporary technology-internet, cell phones, etc.

**The Pennsylvania State Grange** was named to the Advisory Committee as the only one representing a rural member-based organization.

**The Pennsylvania State Grange** will continue our efforts and pursue such legislation as to make it easier for municipalities to become their own internet Service Provider.

## THE RURAL ECONOMY

Rural Pennsylvania faced a perfect storm last year. Poor milk prices and COVID-19 teamed up to hurt rural businesses, farmers, and rural communities. Businesses were closed by government order and could only operate online – BUT, you need the Internet to market goods and services if you can't do it face-to-face. Specific types of businesses such as auto dealerships which could market online actually could not since PA at that time did not allow remote notarization.

The Pennsylvania State Grange was active in several of these areas such as changing the law to allow remote notarizations. We also were in the legislative mix in letting certain businesses like garden centers re-open.

Assuming that the new vaccine will get COVID-19 under control and there will be a partial return to normalcy, the rural economy will still be a problem. Commodity prices and the changes in agricultural policies from a new Administration in Washington mean uncertainty.

### **Pennsylvania State Grange is pursuing these objectives to help PA's rural economy:**

- Liability protection for farmers wishing to engage in agritourism.
- Establishing Dairy Incentive Zones to encourage investment in regional milk processing facilities. This will reduce transportation expenses in milk hauling and boost local jobs.

- Relaxing certain Uniform Construction Code restrictions to let barns be used for weddings and other social events.
- Preventing local municipalities from enacting overly-restrictive rules that prevent agritourism and agri-entertainment from taking place.
- Strengthening the over-order premium system for dairy producers.
- Advocating for funding for the Penn State College of Agricultural Science and Extension as well as the University of Pennsylvania's work in veterinary science and training. The success of PA Agriculture is based on research on producing better crops more efficiently, staving off threats by understanding those threats and by ensuring a steady supply of trained dedicated people going into farming and the industries supporting Agriculture's success.

## CONSERVATION

Grange members are at the forefront of those wanting clean water and a healthy Chesapeake Bay. However, we think several things need to be addressed. Agriculture is felt by many as the culprit. They are not aware of what farmers do in conservation. Farmers know that land and soil are the basics of Agriculture and their interest is to preserve and replenish the land. Towards that end, Pennsylvania State Grange supports:

- Funding for the Conservation Districts.
- Protection of the Special Funds which promote conservation.

- Waiving MS4 fees on farmers who are already doing proper stormwater management.

## WHAT IS MEAT?

Remember going into the store and seeing almond milk and soy milk and now, oat milk? The Dairy Industry has fought a struggle for years to make sure that consumers are not misled by labels that suggest that they are in some way milk. Another battle may be in store as to what meat is. Labels like "cell-cultured meat" disguise what it really is, protein developed in the laboratory.

When this product begins to show up, consumers can be taken unawares by the label. The Pennsylvania State Grange is working with the PA Cattlemen Association to promote legislation that clearly defines the term "meat". It would make it a violation of the Unfair Trade Practices Act to label something as meat when it is not.

## STATE BORROWING

Living within one's means is for the Pennsylvania State Grange a better approach than spending money and then borrowing money to pay for this spending. Historically, we have opposed such schemes as An equity loan on the Farm Show, Taking the Race Horse Development Fund and using the money for scholarships instead of for its original purpose. Borrowing \$4.5 billion and then using a new tax on natural gas to make the payments on the loan.



## STATE SPENDING

In 2020, the General Assembly seized money from twenty Special (dedicated) Funds to help balance the State Budget. \$30 million was taken from the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund. NOTE that the “loan” from this Fund in 2002 still has \$67 million unpaid. The Energy Development Fund lost a million dollars. Machinery & Equipment Loan Fund lost \$5 million. PENNVEST Drinking Water Fund lost \$26.5 million. \$10 million was taken from the Insurance Regulation & Oversight Fund. This funds the general government operations of the PA Insurance Department.

\$50 million dollars were created for dedicated specific purposes, \$150,000 came from the Cigarette Fire Safety and the Firefighter Protection Fund and \$375,000 is no longer available for the Job Training Fund to use in meeting its goals. The biggest bite was taken from the Workers’ Compensation Security Fund 185 million. This Special Fund is used to pay job injury claims when the insurance company that was paying those claims closes its doors.

## Good News and Bad News

The good news is that Special Funds of interest to the Agricultural Community were spared the budget ax for the current fiscal year.

Conservation funds and the Environmental Stewardship Fund had been taken in the past but were left alone. The bad news is that the General Assembly will always look at seizing money in these Special Funds when it decides it needs the money to balance the State Budget.

The Pennsylvania State Grange believes that Special Funds were created for specific purposes. Taking money from the original purpose those Funds means that the Agriculture funds were spared this time. Maybe not next time.



## WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT SMALL CELL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY?

Wayne Campbell, Pennsylvania State Grange President

While the PA General Assembly made some headway in increasing access to high-speed Broadband in the legislative session which ended on November 30, it missed an opportunity to spur the infrastructure buildout needed to provide Pennsylvania with access to 5G technology. The House did not vote on House Bill 1400 – the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act -- sponsored by Bucks County Rep. Frank Farry.

His bill would have reduced any barriers that are inhibiting telecommunications companies from installing small cell facilities on utility poles. Obstacles to this placement are a myriad of conflicting municipal rules for such installation. This process is onerous and so time-intensive that makes it less workable to install these small cells. What House Bill 1400 would have done is to help standardize these local requirements and streamline deployment and ultimately provide 5G access to Pennsylvanians. Continued delay in advancing legislation like HB 1400 merely shifts the investment in the deployment of 5G infrastructure to the 30 other states across the country that have already enacted statewide legislation, that is including neighboring states like West Virginia, Ohio, and Delaware. The FCC has issued guidance to do this, and Pennsylvania is clearly behind.

Pennsylvania and its 2,500+ communities need 5G and the benefits it will provide, perhaps more so now than ever before, including the jobs created from the build out of the infrastructure and the increased economic connectivity that will occur as a result of having reliable access to 5G networks. Hopefully, the Legislature gets out of the gate quickly in January and opts to swiftly enact bills like the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act. Pennsylvania is on the wrong side of the Digital Divide and this legislation will help remedy that.



# What's happening across PA...

## BAILEYVILLE GRANGE #1991

Members of Baileyville Grange #1991 made 40 Jared Boxes and delivered them to the Mount Nittany Medical Center.



Baileyville #1991 President Merle Eyer [right] along with members Shirley Heidrich and Lisa Butler

Jared Boxes provide a special diversion for young patients in the Emergency Room, Patient Rooms, Cancer Care Centers, Surgical Centers, and for children receiving other tests or procedures. The boxes calm nerves, lift spirits, and show them that someone cares! A Jared Box is a plastic shoe-sized storage box filled with small gifts, toys, games, crayons, coloring books, and fun activities. Each box contains items selected for a specific age and gender.

## WESLEY GRANGE #1675

Recently Wesley Grange #1675 members participated in the "Pick-Up Pennsylvania" campaign sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation. They picked up twelve bags of litter along the road near their Grange. Wesley Grange has now registered to become part of the PennDOT Adopt-A-Highway program and plans another cleanup in the spring.



Wesley Grange members Annie Fuchs, Penny Whitman, and Charles Stevenson take a little break after picking up litter along Old Route 8 near their Grange. They gathered twelve bags along a two mile long stretch.

In September Grange members were part of the French Creek Watershed Cleanup and won a monetary prize for their efforts. Improving the environment is part of the Grange's Community Service program.



Wesley Grange member Charles Stevenson takes a break from picking up litter during the fall highway cleanup to read the historical sign about Mayes Fork along Old Route 8 north of Wesley.



Wesley Grange was recently rewarded for their participation in the 2020 French Creek Watershed Cleanup. It was part of the group's Community Service program this year. Left to right: Member Charles Stevenson presents the check to Treasurer Rose Gibbs and President Henry Gadsby.

*Be the CHANGE you wish to see in the world.  
- Mahatma Ghandi*



PA State Zoom events...  
Ginger Bread Houses

**HAMBURG GRANGE #2103**

Members of Hamburg Grange #2103 did a drive-thru Trunk or Treat. The Grange along with other organizations and members of the community participated in the event. It was a huge success where over 400 trick-or-treaters came and got goodies.

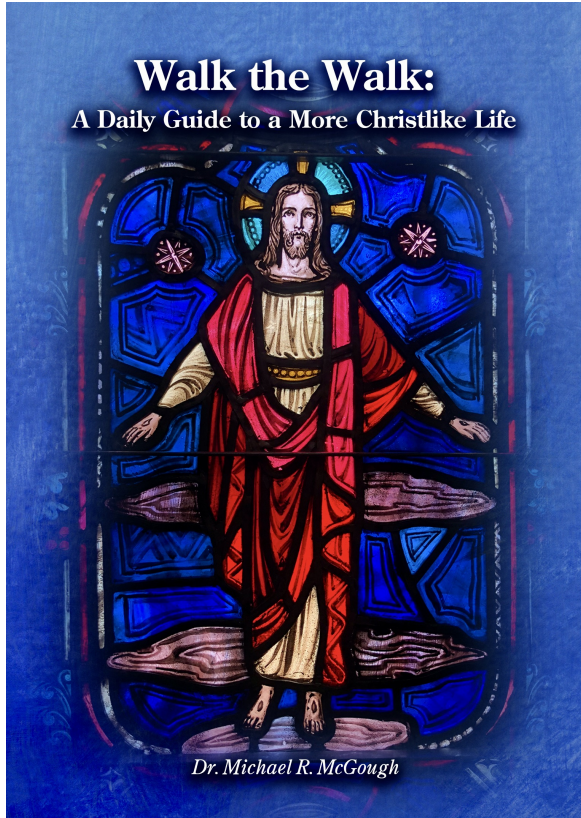


Thank you to everyone  
who participated!

For more Zoom events  
contact  
[publicrelations@pagrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@pagrange.org)



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## Contest Highlights

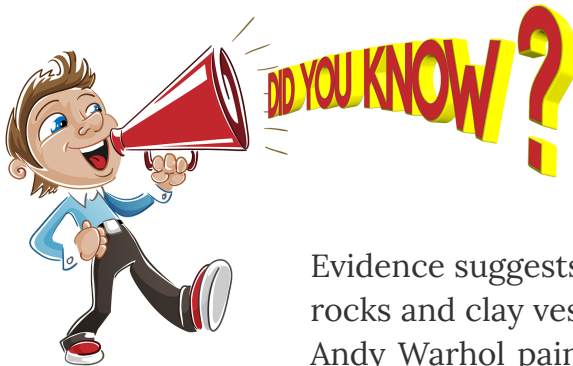


One of the 2021 State Grange Contests is String Art. Any member of any age can enter this contest. All it takes is a piece of wood, nails, and some string. Let your imagination soar by creating your own design or use a stencil to create an outline for your artwork. Above are some examples made by some of the members of Pioneer #1777.



Do you scrapbook? Did you know that there is a scrapbook page contest? Your scrapbook page can be of Grange events, family, friends, school, sports, or any other event that you have done and are scrapbooking. There are divisions for all age groups. In a year that we couldn't go many places, scrapbook your "quarantined summer".

For more contests please refer to the 2020-2021 Guide to Contest and Programs..



### January is National Soup Month

Evidence suggests the existence of soup as far back as 20,000 B.C. Hot rocks and clay vessels were used to cook soup. Did you also know that Andy Warhol painted the famous Campbell Soup cans? He confessed to drinking Campbell soup for lunch, for 20 years. Nothing drives away those chilly winter blues like a hot bowl of your favorite soup. And it's nutritious too! So, go ahead indulge and get souped-up on soup this month.

### Potato and Bacon Soup

4 cups chopped peeled potatoes  
3/4 cup sliced green onions  
3/4 cup chopped celery  
1 10oz can chicken broth

1 cup low-fat cottage cheese  
2 cups skim milk  
6 slices bacon, crisp-fried, crumbled  
1/4 tsp pepper

Combine potatoes, green onions, celery and chicken broth in 3-quart saucepan. Bring to boil; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove and reserve 1 cup vegetables. Puree remaining vegetable mixture and cottage cheese 1/2 at a time in blender. Return to saucepan. Stir in milk, bacon, pepper and reserved vegetables. Heat just to serving temperature, do not boil. This is a low-fat soup. Yields 8 servings.

Patty Friede - Stony Point Grange #1694

This recipe is from the 1992 Edition of the Pennsylvania State Grange Cookbook (the green cover)



# Welcome New Members!!!

## Russellville #91

Lina Day  
Cassandra Kehs  
Danielle Kehs  
Kay Reyburn  
Abigail Kehs

## Oriental #165

Charlene Espenshade  
Matthew Espenshade

## Gibson #798

Tashia Shay  
Earl Cottrell  
Judy Sartell  
Jennifer Sartell  
Mary Gray  
Charlotte Sidorski  
Edward Sidorski  
Diane Burman  
Elaine Burman  
Elaine Wood

## Watson #1068

Jacob Gambino  
**Buckhorn #1119**  
Chuck Cummings  
Jennifer Andry Kovitch  
Gladys Cummings

## Roseville #1290

Vicky Ishman  
Bob Ishman

## Stony Point #1694

Sarah Snyder  
Brooklyn Boyles

## Unity #1710

Brea Rutledge

## Gouglersville #1743

Jess Mills

## Trexlertown #1755

Keith Reichard  
Regina Reichard  
Steve Jones



## Red Lion #1781

Julie Yahne-Schrum

## Perry Valley #1804

Janette Witmer

## Big Knob #2008

Zachary Bundy  
Noah Carney  
Zachary Carney  
Gregory Kline  
Brock Merryman  
Gianni Netherland  
Jack Parrish  
Denton Wright



# In Memoriam

"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant..."

## Canasatego #27

Warren Fenstermacher

## Logan #109

James Bowmaster Jr  
Ethel Musick

## New Vernon #608

Cora McAdams

## Gibson #798

Eugene Gunn

## Hayfield #800

Charles Black

## Laurel Point #915

Ernest Claypoole

## California #941

Alice Durlin

## Elk Creek #997

Jesse Erickson

## Harmony #1201

Shirley Fry

## East Lynn #1263

Dorothy Hartman

## Roseville #1290

Jane Minich  
Elaine Daugherty

Jean Kahle

Charles Brown

## Carmichaels #1389

Lucy Scott

## Bald Eagle #1390

Anna Daughenbaugh

Martin Starr

## London #1492

James McDowell

## Westfield #1514

Nancy McMillin

## Big Creek #1559

Robert Miller

## Pleasant Valley #1643

Les Firth

Joanne Werger

## Mahoning Valley #1649

George Fulkroad

## Central #1650

Rev. Gene Handwerk

## Harmony #1692

Mrs. Harvey A Hines Jr

## Plumsteadville #1738

Roy Snyder Jr

## Gouglersville #1743

Charles Lauck

## Pioneer #1777

Evelyn Werley

## Dayton #1819

M Bruce Steele

Marlin Steele

## Marion #1853

Anna M Troutman

## Pleasant Hill #1861

Imogene Hoover

## Mt Nebo #1872

David Tilly

## Bernville #1887

Dorothy Hoffman

## Hookstown #1980

Mary Kay Shutt

Pauline Whitehead

## Big Knob #2008

Ellen Schweinsberg

## Log Cabin Unity #2110

Vernice Brocklehurst





If your Grange has any upcoming events/fundraisers that you want to be published, please email them to [pagrange@pagrange.org](mailto:pagrange@pagrange.org).

**January**

1 Happy New Year!  
9-16 Virtual Farm Show

**February**

14 Happy Valentine's Day

**March**

17 Happy St. Patrick's Day  
19-21 Virtual Mid Atlantic  
Regional Conference  
(competitions will be held during PA Family  
Festival)

**April**

1 April Fool's Day  
4 Easter

**May**

5 Cinco de Mayo  
31 Memorial Day

**June**

14 Flag Day  
25-27 PA Youth Camp; Camp Sylvan Hills,  
Howard, PA  
27-July 3 PA Junior Camp; Camp Sylvan Hills,  
Howard, PA

**July**

4 Independence Day  
15-18 Family Festival; Centre County  
Fairgrounds  
20-25 Grange Revival; Days End Campground,  
Sturgis, SD

**August**

10-12 Ag Progress Days; Pennsylvania Furnace

**September**

6 Labor Day

**October**

15-17 State Session; Valley Forge Convention  
Center, King of Prussia, PA  
31 Happy Halloween!

**November**

9-13 National Grange Convention; Wichita, KS  
11 Veterans Day  
25 Happy Thanksgiving!

**December**

25 Merry Christmas!

**All Dates are tentative and subject to change**

# **Pennsylvania State Grange**

***Pennsylvania Grange News***

**20 Erford Road, Suite 216**

**Lemoyne, PA 17043**

## **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.

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



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

**Pennsylvania State Grange**

**[www.pagrang.org](http://www.pagrang.org)**

**(717) 737-8855**