A group of people holding a heart

Description automatically generated

**Tina Keen, Director**

**334 Lemon Street**

**Coatesville, PA 19320**

**973-255-8959**

[pagrangedcs@gmail.com](mailto:pagrangedcs@gmail.com)

The Deaf & Community Service Committee is encouraging Granges to expand their outreach. We encourage you to look at your community through a different lens and work to develop plans that will help to address some of those needs you discover. Please report all you do on the Community Service report form at the end of the year.

## DEAF & COMMUNITY SERVICE END OF YEAR REPORT

All Granges should track and report their community service activities to the State Grange. The Community Service program reporting period is from September 1 to August 31. Community Service activities can be defined as any acts of service that help the community, a group of people, or an individual. All reports are due to the state director by September 15th.

The Deaf & Community Service report should include:

* Type of project
* The recipient (s) of the event/activity
* Number of people working on individual projects
* Number of hours devoted to the project
* Types of public relations used for projects
* Newspaper/magazine clippings
* Scrapbook (not required)

Funding from the National Grange for Deaf & Community Service activities depends on your participation. Pennsylvania needs to submit reports from at least 25% of the Granges in the state in order to be considered for funding.

Please report all projects, no matter how small or how big.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT CONTEST:**

A top prize of $100 will be awarded to the top performer in each of the following membership categories:

1. Membership of 25 or less
2. Membership of 26 - 60
3. Membership of 61 or more

The committee will review all submitted reports and highlight the participating Granges activities in the PGN and/or on our Facebook page to help build awareness within our Grange Community. All Granges that submit a report will receive a certificate of recognition from the State Grange Office.

The Deaf & Community Service Committee will award $100 to the top performing Pomona Grange. Activities from the submitted Pomona reports will also be featured in the PGN and/or on our Facebook page and each organization will receive a certificate of recognition from the State Grange Office.

Award winners will be announced at State Session. Additional prize monies may be awarded if funds permit.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Granges should always be searching for innovative ideas to enhance their community service activities. This contest highlights one project your Grange completes between September 1st and August 31st that you consider to be the most impactful. This is a separate competition that takes place outside of your scrapbooks/notebooks.

To submit for this contest, please fill out the Community Service Project of the Year form and submit to the D&CS Director by September 15th.

#### Rules:

1. Each Grange, Junior Grange, or Pomona can have one submission.
2. Submissions must be accompanied by a trifold board to be displayed at State Session. Trifold displays must be delivered to the Display Room at the annual State Grange Convention according to the deadline published in the session schedule. **The D&CS Director only receives the entry form by September 15th.**
3. Each project must include the following:
   * Project Name/Type
   * People Involved
   * Beneficiaries
   * Costs/Profits related to the project
   * At least one picture but no more than 5
   * Name/Contact information for your Grange and county should be placed on the back

Winners will be announced on the final day of State Convention.

#### Prize:

#### Winning project will be awarded $100.

## DEAF AWARENESS CONTESTS

*Sign-A-Song Contest*

The Sign-a-Song contest happens at State Convention. The contest uses American Sign Language (ASL) to provide musical interpretations of songs. The rules of the contest and judging criteria can be found below.

***Rules:***

Contestants must be a Grange member in good standing, Junior Grange membership counts.

Junior contestants compete in the age groups 5-9 and 10-14, however Jr. winners do not go beyond the state level.

* The group category may include up to two Junior Grangers.
* Contestants must furnish live music, CD recording, or provide equipment to play using an electronic device of the song being interpreted.
* Three copies of the words of the song must be supplied for convenience of the judges.
* Signers must use complete communication techniques: sign language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, and body movement.
* Props and costumes are not allowed. Rhythm is optional.
* There are two categories; ---

~Individual

~Group (2 or more)

* Only one song may be signed during the competition performance. Medleys are not permitted.
* Participants should be prepared to sign their name, song title and type of sign being used (ASL, ESL, or Pigeon).

*Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing (i.e. a sign language interpreter) may not enter.*

#### Judging Guidelines:

Total 100 points

* Utilization of Communication Skills: Sign Language ability, signs clearly with correct interpretation. **35 points**
* Body expression: Displays emotion, expresses key thoughts with body movement, mouth words for lip reading. **35 points**
* Presentation: Interpret with confidence, clearly signed, uniformity of the group (if applicable). **20 points**
* Song selection is appropriate with a clear meaning and is suitable for the participants’ signing ability. **10 points**
* Points may be awarded at the judges’ discretion for areas not covered above.
* Timing: 10 points will be deducted for each minute or fraction thereof over 5 minutes.

Monetary awards will be given to the top performer in individual and group categories in the amount of $50 each.

#### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Poster

Help us create awareness by educating others on people in our communities that are deaf or hard of hearing. Use your creativity to spread the message by creating a poster or display that can be used to highlight the importance of this issue.

Entries should be delivered to the Display Room at the annual State Grange Convention according to the deadline published in the session schedule. If you are unable to attend, your entries may be sent and picked up by another member.

#### Rules:

1. Any medium, i.e., paint, markers, crayons etc. may be used
2. Name, contact information, and Grange should be listed on back

Winners will be announced at State Session.

### Categories:

1. Junior Division -- 5-14
2. Youth Division -- 14-35
3. Subordinate Division -- 36+

#### Prizes:

One winner will be chosen in each category. Winners will receive $50.

## PROJECTS FOR STATE SESSION

Each year, a local organization will be selected by the Deaf & Community Service Committee as a beneficiary of the donations collected at state session. More information will be included in the D&CS packet that is sent to each Grange as well as in the Pennsylvania Grange News and online.

The focus for the year that all Granges will be encouraged to include in their Community Service activities will culminate with this activity.

## PROJECTS AT FAMILY FESTIVAL

Each year, a project will be selected by the Deaf and Community Service Committee. The project will be determined by the theme and other activities scheduled during the festival. More information will be included in the D&CS packet that is sent to each Grange as well as in the Pennsylvania Grange News and online.

* There may be other activities taking place during this event to raise funds/awareness. Please watch the D&CS Facebook page and the PGN for more information.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

It is recommended that Granges honor an active community member each year. Choose an individual who has helped make the community you live in a better place, served selflessly in an organization that serves your community or who has made a difference to an individual or group of people.

Once you have selected this person, invite them and the community to a special meeting where you will honor this individual’s work. Plaques for recognition can be ordered from the National Grange and you can also advertise the event to make the community aware of what’s happening in your Grange.

***REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNDS***

If your Grange is in need of funding to start or complete a project, you can apply directly to the D&CS committee for help. Funds are limited and requests will be reviewed in April, August and December by the D&CS committee members.

The request should include:

* amount of funding requested
* the specific project where funds will be used
* approximate total cost (catalog page with a picture, price and ordering information if applicable)
* contact name and phone number.
* Impact the project will have on the community/individual

**DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

Lecturer’s Programs are a way for Granges to educate your membership about deaf awareness, including:

* hearing protection
* assisted technology (such as the TTY, Relay or CapTel)
* interpreting/interpreters
* sign language or any other related subject

## THE NATIONAL GRANGE FOUNDATION

The National Grange Historical Foundation continues to collect money for the Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm. If your Grange wishes to donate to the Farm, please forward donations to the State Director, made payable to PA State Grange D&CS Dept., with “Kelley Farm” in the memo line.

## DEAF AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Please reach out to any of us if you have questions or if we can provide assistance. “Whatsoever you attempt to do, strive to do it well.”

Tina Keen, Chester County

Janet Fishovitz, Beaver County

Judy Hetzell, Allegheny County

Carole Huber, Lancaster County

Cindy Shaffer, Cumberland County

Judy Shupp, Wyoming County