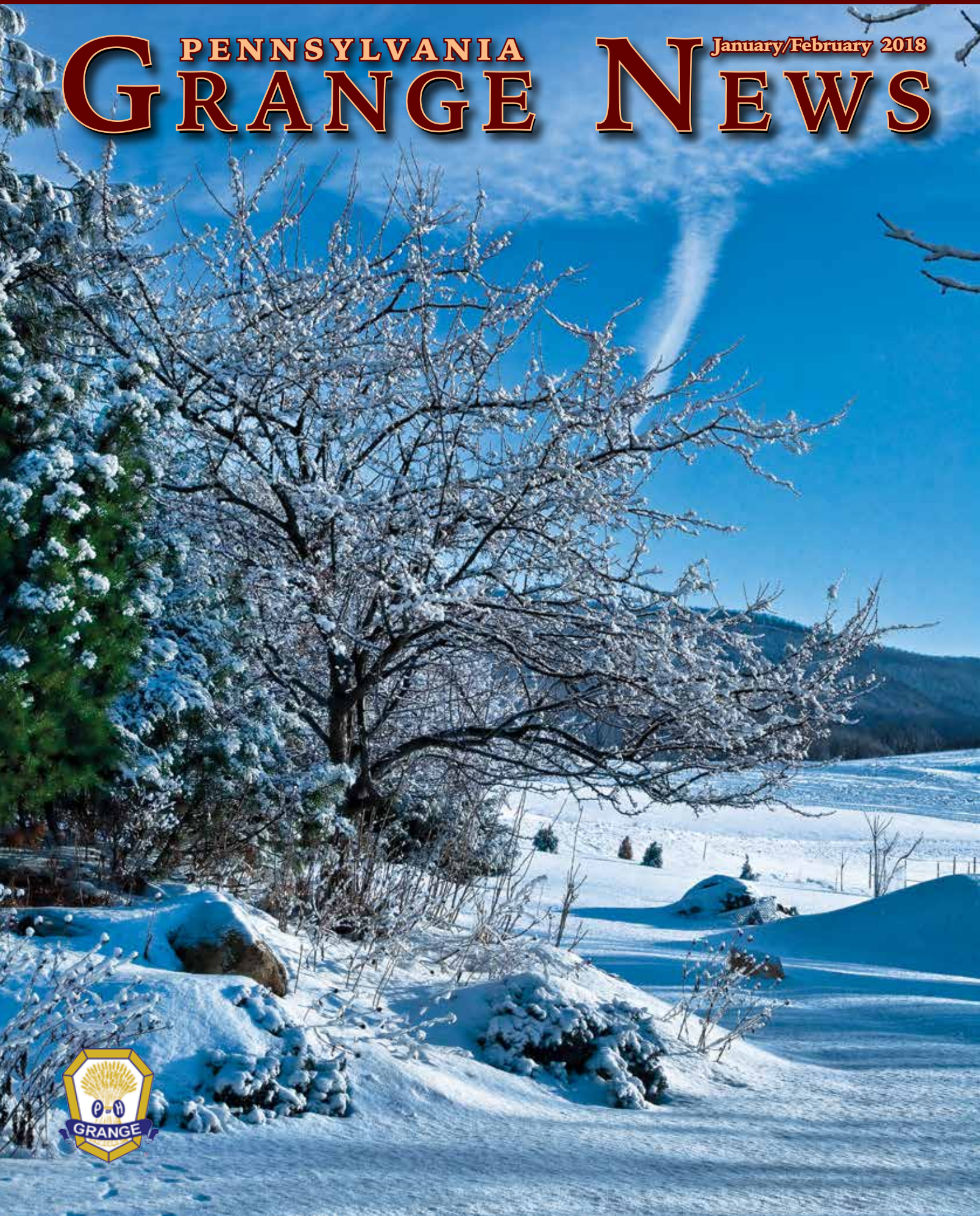


PENNSYLVANIA GRANGE NEWS

January/February 2018



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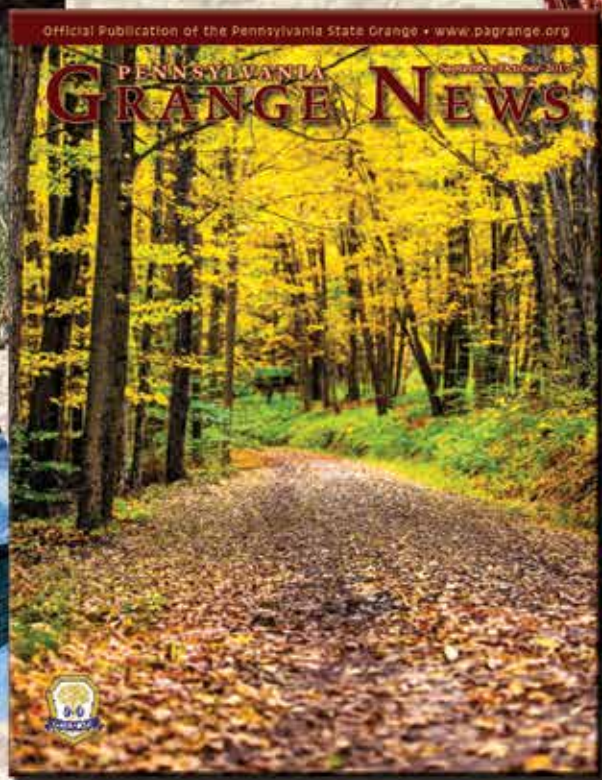
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*"Shades of Winter",
Lycoming County, PA*

Mrs. Hiller is a 4th generation Granger at Allegheny Grange #1843





From the President's Desk

Wayne D. Campbell
PA State Grange President
president@pagrange.org

Dear Fellow Grangers:

State Session is over, National Session is over, and Thanksgiving is here and gone. Christmas is just around the corner as you receive this issue and then it's New Year's, 2018. Wow, when I was graduating high school in 1973, 2020 seemed so far away and now it's just around the corner. I look back over the last 45 years and am amazed at the changes that have evolved. Remember the party line phone, then the dial phone, followed by the push button phone, and then the bag cell phone. Now, how many of us even have a landline phone in our homes anymore? The cell phone has replaced many of our landline phones...almost. The Grange is continuing the effort to get cell phone and internet services into the areas of Pennsylvania that still do not have access to these opportunities... opportunities that many of us take for granted every day. The Grange was instrumental in getting rural areas free mail delivery and electricity out into the countryside, and our job is not complete. We are a grass roots family organization who advocates for the whole family. We work to obtain a better public education for our children, and advocate for better health care for all, especially our seniors. We

2018...
...Make A
Difference!!!

strive for a better government that includes property tax reform, term limits, and budget reform.

We encourage our young people to participate in contests and programs such as Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song. We support Community Service organizations with our donations including Dogs for the Deaf, Easter Seals, and raising money to help sponsor an Autism Dog.

It's a new year, but the values that the Grange represents are as important to our society now as much as ever. We need to promote our family values, legislative abilities/actions, as well as moral and social values. Our organization has a lot to offer society today, but if we don't tell others about ourselves, what we do, and what we offer, who will? We can make a difference in our communities, State and Nation.

I'm not one for making New Year's resolutions because they usually go by the wayside before January even comes to an end, however... let each of us commit to making a difference in 2018. If we let others see our excitement and our enthusiasm for life, just maybe, they will want to join in the action!!!

Fraternally,

Wayne Campbell
Pennsylvania State Grange
President



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January/February Issue
November 3rd

March/April Issue
January 5th

May/June Issue
March 2nd

July/August Issue
May 4th

September/October Issue
July 2nd

November/December Issue
September 7th

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Chaplain's Corner

Judy Pressler

PA State Grange Chaplain



it move my heart toward “loving my neighbors more than myself.” This translates into better understanding of others, identifying the needs of those around me, reaching out to people who are lonely or hurting.

Start 2018 with a Happy Heart in January and Lots of Love in February

Since this is the January-February issue, I'll have to touch on two important fronts: A New Year and Valentine Day.

New Year's Day is all about resolutions and Valentine's Day is all about love. So, Happy New Year! Have you made any resolutions? I have made one: **I am not making any “New Year's” resolutions!**

Given my past history, my follow-through techniques are not that great with them, so instead, I am adopting a new **life** resolution as *recommended* by our Heavenly Father in the book of Ezekiel and *approved* by all who **love** Him: “Cast away from all your transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.”

What a great idea: **get a new heart and a new spirit in a new year.** We all can use that reminder from time to time and as we begin 2018, I can't think of a better goal to set for myself. I'll have 31 days in January and 28 days in February... that gives me 59 days (*anyone who knows me knows that math is not my strong point!*) to let the **Spir-**

In January and February, the timing is perfect: this is the season for rest from our labors. The harvest is done, the ground is setting idle and it is too early to plant this year's gardens (although those seed catalogs are arriving in the mail!).

This is the time to sow **NEW SEEDS** with a **NEW HEART** and a **NEW SPIRIT** as we reach out in **LOVE** in our Granges as well as in our daily lives. Let's celebrate Valentine's Day every day. Let's begin by checking on the long-standing members who can't make it to our meetings any more. Let's contact the members who are inactive to find out why they are MIA. At least they'll know they are missed. Let's look around our communities to find folks who need a “family” and share our **LOVE** with them.

To paraphrase a verse from Revelations: There is an open door which no one can shut....Venture out that door and into the world in this new year with a **NEW HEART** and a **NEW SPIRIT** and **LOTS of LOVE** in that heart to see what wonders may appear in 2018!

God Bless You and Yours!

Prayerfully yours,
Judy Pressler



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Membership News

Lizzie Bailey

PA State Grange Membership & PR
Director

TEAM GRANGE!

Team Grange consists of all ages; this is an element that is not found in other organizations. Our family values are the driving force that promotes all members of all ages to attend meetings... a feature that sets us apart from others. As "Team Grange" we as members all share the goals of serving our communities, be legislative advocates, and work on growing membership to be a strong organization.

When I have come to visit Granges I see the 3 distinct types of team players.

YOUNG PEOPLE: (Birth to 35 yrs of age) Our youth are exuberant, bring fresh ideas, and have the energy to devote to making things happen. The Young people are serving as State Officers, Youth & Junior Officers, and fulfilling leadership roles within their local Granges. They bring youthful wisdom as they are having experiences that are cultivating them into great leaders in our organization.

ELDERS: (80 yrs of age and above). The Elders have worked their way through the ranks, served our Granges over many years in many different roles. They have expe-

rienced successes as well as failures. They have gained wisdom from their years of experience. They are slowing down in being involved in the chores of community service, but still have very definite opinions on what is going on within the Granges.

"TWEENERS": (The "Tweeners" fall into the vast age range of 36 to 79.) They are in the middle, serving our organizations as State Officers, Executive Board Members, serving on leadership roles within



their local Granges. They have wisdom from all their experiences too. "Tweeners" are very active in all things that are going on in their organization.

We all have a huge role on this Team Grange. I ask the elders to share their life experiences with the young people and the "tweeners". We need your knowledge to make great decisions moving our team forward. To the young people, I ask that you seek out the Elders and ask to hear their stories. They have "pearls of wisdom"

that as you continue to move into leadership roles that will be very valuable in making decisions. The "Tweeners", you find yourself in the middle. I ask that you also seek stories from the "Elders" as we are never too old to learn. I also ask that you accept the role of being a catalyst to assist our "Young People" in setting goals and attaining them.

Team Grange needs all of you. President Wayne Campbell has a vision and strong convictions to have resurgence in Grange growth that will enhance our community service and legislative involvement. Let us all embrace the journey and develop our team for the work ahead of us in our local Granges to move our organization forward in our mission statement.

Lizzie Bailey
PR/Membership Director
publicrelations@pagrange.org
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Family Activities

Melanie Melius

PA State Grange Family Activities
Director

Hello Everyone! With State and National Sessions behind us, I hope all had a Good Thanksgiving enjoying family and eating all your favorite foods.

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and received all that you asked for. Now with the New Year 2018 already here I hope all is good with everyone. Each grange that entered items for Family Activities should have received contest papers, a picture of the

2018 quilt and new quilt pattern instructions, so everyone can get a head start on the contest. Please share all papers with fellow grangers and granges. The packets will be sent out soon with raffle tickets and a picture of the 2018 Quilt for sale, Pomona and Subordinate report papers, contest paper, the new quilt pattern, "Remember Me" with any color you would like to be remembered by. I hope everyone is enjoying the weather and keeping warm while working on your contest projects.

Peace and Prayers for the New Year.

Yours Truly,
Melanie Melius



State Grange 2017 Raffle Quilt winner:
Pam Naugle, from Bellefonte, PA



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**MEMBERS
GET MORE**



Deaf Activities & Community Services Department

Gail Switzer

PA State Grange Deaf Activities & Community Service Director

Hello Grangers,

This year has been very rewarding! I was very impressed by the work that you are doing in your communities. For those that sent in their reports, thank you! I looked through each report and book and documented the different projects that are being completed around the state. I have a 6-1/2 page document of the different ways you raise money and what organizations and causes you donate to or do work for. It is extremely impressive and something each and every one of you should be proud of! We logged about 71,000 hours of community service from the 68 reports that were submitted. Way to go Pennsylvania!

Congrats to the following Granges for their winning reports/books.

Granges with 25 or less member:

1. Chester Valley Grange #1496, Chester County
2. London Grove Grange #63, Chester County
3. Sinking Valley Grange #484, Blair County

Granges with 26-60 members:

1. Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford County
2. Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County
3. Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County
(Honorable Mention) Central Grange #1650, Lehigh County

Granges with 61 or more members:

1. Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County
2. Ontelaunee Community Grange

#1617, Berks County

3. Big Knob Grange #2008, Beaver County

(Honorable Mention) – Kutztown Grange #1836, Berks County

Pomona Granges:

1. Centre County Pomona Grange #13
2. Montour-Northumberland Pomona Grange #31
3. Bucks County Pomona Grange #22

Overall Placings:

1. Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford County
2. Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County
3. Ontelaunee Community Grange #1617, Berks County
4. Big Knob Grange #2008, Beaver County

Congratulations to Hayfield Grange #800, as their book represented Pennsylvania at the National Grange Session in Spokane, Washington in November 2017.

At State Session we collected boxes upon boxes of items for St. Francis Commons and The Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. THANK YOU for the overwhelming support. We sent 7 boxes of school supplies and 3 bags of tissue boxes to the school. Their deaf interpreter, Hannah was present to accept these items on Sunday and was very grateful for all of our donations. I was a little curious about how much of each item we donated. However, after counting out 171 folders, I decided I needed to stop; otherwise I would have been counting for hours. It was amazing to see your response. We sent about 5 boxes of items to St. Fran-

cis Commons, so again, thank you for your support! We were also successful with our book, CD and DVD sale at State Grange. We raised \$95 from this sale and sent \$100 to Dogs for the Deaf. Thank you to all that donated books and CDs and to all of those that purchased books and CDs.

During session, we also had our sign a song contest. Congrats to Jennifer Beamon who will be representing Pennsylvania at Eastern Regionals to compete for this contest. Jennifer signed "Happy Trails". I challenge 5 youth to compete next year. I also challenge 3 youth at heart to participate.

We continue to collect money for our last project of the year, donating to sponsor an autism dog. We have about \$1800-\$2000 that will go towards this cause for now. I hope that before the end of the year we can donate that, if not more with help from other organizations/corporations.

Please be reminded that I would like you to e-mail pagrange.dacs@gmail.com when your Grange completes community projects. I will post your projects on Facebook. This allows others around the state (and nation) to see the work you have done and get ideas for more community service projects.

I continue to look forward to hearing about all of your awesome work and hope to see you soon. Feel free to reach out to me to my personal e-mail: g_switzer09@hotmail.com phone 610-750-4290, or e-mail the address in the above paragraph with any community service/deaf activities projects.

~ Gail





Junior News!!!



Greetings Fellow Grangers and Junior Grangers! Greetings and Happy New Year to the Juniors, their families and all Grangers across PA. I am writing this from my hotel room at the National Grange Convention in Spokane

Washington and the falling snow is just beautiful. It is early November as I write this and I hope that by the time you are reading this edition, you are not buried in snow!



tion in October was a great time and I was so happy to see over 35 Juniors from across the state join us for the Junior Jam. They had a great time touring a coal mine, ward to this year and introducing a new Junior Grange Committee member. I will feature him in the March-April edition. There are also some changes in the National Jr Grange program that I will feature in the Grange News as well as in our Facebook Group. All leaders will also be mailed a copy of the new 2018 Program Guide.

~Lurae



The Pennsylvania Grange Ses-

swimming at a local school pool, having a fire S'more dessert after a spaghetti dinner and more. The Berks County Juniors did a great job on the Jr. meeting and degree on Sunday! I am so proud of them all. I am also happy to report that there were over 270 entries with 90 Juniors placing those entries. We have some talented kiddos in our state!



I am looking for-





Government Matters
Vince Phillips
 PA State Grange Lobbyist

WHAT HAPPENS... AFTER THE AMENDMENT?

On Tuesday November 7, Pennsylvania voters adopted an amendment to the State Constitution regarding the possible exemption of homestead owners from the property tax. While many who feel the burden of local property taxes hail that decision, the PA State Grange wants to provide some perspective.

Grange members should see that the amendment is not an end in itself. It is an important step but it is only a step. The General Assembly would have to make the next step if across the board funding replacement of the residential property tax is to be achieved.

First, the 100-percent exemption from property taxes in the Constitutional Amendment does not cover all property. Commercial property would still be taxed. In addition, the amendment gives taxing authorities the option of increasing the exemption to 100-percent for residential property owners but that is not automatic. Local taxing authorities would have to agree with it. Former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil was right when he said that all politics is local. The amendment underscores the local taxing entity's authority to make this decision. That is where taxpayers who support property tax elimination come in to convince local leaders that this is a proper course of action. The 100-percent exemption

is not automatic.

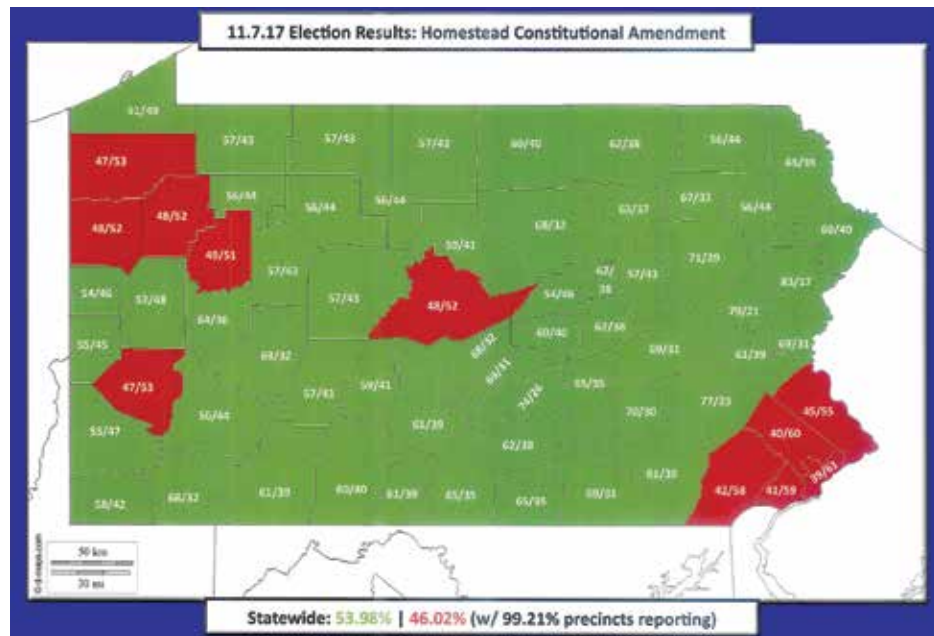
Limits to Local Revenue Options

How could local governments raise revenue? What would have to happen next?

Does local government have the force of law behind them or must they seek state legislation from the General Assembly and

emption to 100-percent, money replacing the property tax will have to be made up. Where will the make-up money come from? Will it be "new" money from the local level?

- Cutting local government spending?
- Eliminating local programs?
- Imposing a local Personal Income Tax (PIT) assuming the state lets you?



Governor to give them the taxation tools to make up the revenues that would have otherwise come from property taxes?

If local activism succeeds and the taxing entity decides to move the residential property tax ex-

- Imposing a county PIT assuming the state lets you?
- Charging or increasing fees of various sorts? Examples might be construction permits or building codes fines or onlot septic system inspections



- Imposing a local sales tax like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh assuming the state lets you?

These are not pleasant choices especially since revenues from these alternatives might be uncertain. Will that “new” money be enough?

With each of these funding choices come questions.

Question: Which local or county programs should be cut?

Answer: Not mine

Question: Which fees should be increased?

Answer: Not mine.

State Action

Municipalities, boroughs, townships, and counties have the authority that the state gives them by statute. What the amendment does is to clear some hurdles to allow state action to happen. Municipalities will need more available options for revenue if the General Assembly gives them authorization.

Of course, property tax relief is not a new issue for the General Assembly. Legislation has been passed and signed into law several times that address parts of the property tax issue. Remember the gambling legislation enacted during the Rendell Administration? Part of that law required some gambling revenues to be dedicated to property tax relief. With the expansion of gambling signed into law by Governor Wolf October 30 (Act 42 of 2017, House Bill 271), there may be more relief monies coming for property tax relief. Earlier in 1997, a law was passed allowing for the 50-percent exemption that now exists.

In addition, in his first year, Governor Wolf tried to reduce a small portion of the property tax by a large scale expansion of the

Sales Tax as well as increases in the rate of the Sales Tax and the Personal Income Tax (PIT). Politically, that was met with a buzz saw from state legislators who found plenty not to like in that budget proposal from the new Governor.

Probably, many people are aware of an approach that was spearheaded years back by former state representative and candidate for Governor Sam Rohrer (R-Berks) and now by Senator Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill) and Rep. Jim Cox (R-Berks). The idea is to abolish the property tax and replace that revenue by expanding the reach of the Sales Tax and increase other tax rates (Sales, Personal Income Tax). The Property Tax Independence Act is Senate Bill 76 in the Senate. The Cox bill was House Bill 76 in the last session of the General Assembly but has not yet been introduced this year. The high-water mark for this legislation came last session when Senate Bill 76 had a tie vote in the Senate which was broken by Lt. Governor Mike Stack who voted no.

So, the bottom line is that the constitutional amendment is a necessary step in eliminating property taxes but real work by all who are passionate or simply concerned about residential property taxes need to take the next step and become actively involved in the political and legislative process before that goal can be achieved.

Vince Phillips is the lobbyist for the Pennsylvania State Grange. He has lobbied in PA since 1989, coming from the Nation’s Capitol where, among other things, he served on President Reagan’s Transition Team and held a Reagan Administration appointment at USDA.

Vince Phillips
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legislation@pagrange.org



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Youth News!!!

Greetings from the Youth and Young Adults Department!

Wow! What a State Grange Session! The Youth and Young Adults Department would like to give a big shout-out to all of the great Pennsylvania Grangers who supported our National Master and PA Home-Girl, Betsy Huber, in the Pie-In-The-Face fundraiser. We raised \$2400 towards this National Youth Foundation fundraiser, all thanks to your support. THANK YOU!

The Youth and Young Adults Department was very busy during the State Grange Session with our contest entries and Public Speaking Contest. We had entries in almost every category but we would definitely welcome many more. Please take a look at the program guide and start planning your entries for next year, including your speeches. For those still in school, you are definitely welcome to use a speech that you had to prepare for school in the contest. There is no set topic, only a time limit.

START WITH A CAKE MIX

(Chocolate Mix - All ages)

- 1st - Miranda Irons - Warren Co;
- 2nd - Vera Supplee - Juniata Co;
- 3rd - Deborah Kolpak - Chester Co.

START WITH A CAKE MIX

(White/Yellow Mix - All ages)

- 1st - Nancy Sattazahn - Berks Co;
- 2nd - Jessica Reyburn - Chester Co;
- 3rd - Deborah Kolpak - Chester Co.

START WITH A CAKE MIX

(Spice/Other Mix- All ages)

- 1st - Philip Vonada - Centre Co;
- 2nd - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co;
- 3rd - Deborah Kolpak - Chester Co.

CUPCAKE DECORATING

(Juniors)

- 1st - Conrad Long - Juniata Co;
- 2nd - Natalee Zug - Juniata Co;
- 3rd - Lila Samsel - Berks Co.

CUPCAKE DECORATING

(Adults: 14- above)

- 1st - Nancy Sattazahn - Berks Co;
- 2nd - Heather Druckenmiller - York-Adams Co;
- 3rd - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co.

SCRAPBOOK PAGE

(Grange Related: Young Adult - 22-35)

- 1st - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co

SCRAPBOOK PAGE

(Grange Related: Adult - 35+)

- 1st - Cindy Keith - Huntingdon Co

SCRAPBOOK PAGE

(Other: Youth -14-21)

- 1st - Lindsay Schroeder - Berks Co

SCRAPBOOK PAGE

(Other: Young Adult - 22-35)

- 1st - Ashley Mohn - Berks Co
- 2nd - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co
- 3rd - Miranda Irons - Warren Co

SCRAPBOOK PAGE

(Other: Adult- 35+)

- 1st - Cindy Keith - Huntingdon Co

BUILDING BLOCK CREATION

(Juniors: 5-13)

- 1st - Logan Eisenhower
- 2nd - Hadyn Wiseman
- 3rd - Harvey Reyburn - Chester Co

BUILDING BLOCK CREATION

(Youth: 14-21)

- 1st - Lindsay Schroeder - Berks Co

BUILDING BLOCK CREATION

(Young Adult: 22-35)

- 1st - Ashley Kolpak - Chester Co
- 2nd - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co

BUILDING BLOCK CREATION

(Adult: 35+)

- 1st - Derek Schroeder - Berks Co
- 2nd - Karen Mohn - Berks Co
- 3rd - Barbara Schroeder - Berks Co

CREATE A COMMERCIAL

(Individual)

- 1st - Ashley Mohn - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Container: Juniors - 5-13)

- 1st - Jacob Schroeder - Berks Co (tied for 1st)
- 1st - Harvey Reyburn - Chester Co (tied for 1st)

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Container: Youth - 14-21)

- 1st - Lindsay Schroeder - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Container: Young Adult - 22-35)

- 1st - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Container: Adults - 35+)

- 1st - Deborah Kolpak - Chester Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Fabric: Juniors -5-13)

- 1st - Kay Reyburn - Chester Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Fabric: Youth -14-21)

- 1st - Lindsay Schroeder - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Fabric: Young Adult -22-35)

- 1st - Ashley Mohn - Berks Co
- 2nd - Jennifer Beamon - Berks Co
- 3rd - Miranda Irons - Warren Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Fabric: Adults 35+)

- 1st - Deborah Kolpak - Chester Co
- 2nd - Karen Mohn - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Wood: Youth -14-21)

- 1st - Lindsay Schroeder - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Wood: Young Adult -22-35)

- 1st - Ashley Mohn - Berks Co

RECYCLED/REPURPOSED CRAFT

(Wood: Adults - 35+)

- 1st - Deborah Kolpak - Chester Co

DESIGN A BUTTON

(Young Adult - 22-35)

- 1st - Ashley Kolpak - Chester Co
- 2nd - Philip Vonada - Centre Co
- 3rd - Ashley Mohn - Berks Co

DESIGN A BUTTON

(Adults - 35+)

- 1st - Karen Mohn - Berks Co



PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Prepared Speech: Youth - 14-21)
1st - Derek Snyder – York Co

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Prepared Speech: Young Adult - 22-35)
1st - Gail Switzer – Berks Co

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Prepared Speech: Adult - 36+)
1st - Luræ Benzio – Beaver Co

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Impromptu Speech: Youth -14-21)
1st - Jacob Mengel – Berks Co
2nd - Grace Wadsworth – Chester Co
3rd - Isaac Mengel – Berks Co

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Impromptu Speech: Young Adult - 22-35)
1st - Gail Switzer – Berks Co
2nd - Denae Zvarick – Montgomery Co
3rd - Jennifer Nauss – York Co

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Impromptu Speech - Adult -36 +)
1st - Ruth Vonada – Centre Co
2nd - Luræ Benzio – Beaver Co

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(Visual Aids Speech: Young Adult - 22-35)
1st - Philip Vonada – Centre Co

Another highlight of State Grange session for the Youth and Young Adults was the opportunity to open the session on Saturday



2017 PA State Grange Friend of the Youth Lindsay Schroeder with Ellen Wadsworth

morning. The 16 youth and young adults that participated did an amazing job, both on the drill work and in the ritual work of opening the meeting. We have a wonderful group of youth and young adults who will one day be the leaders of our Grange. You can be proud of them all.

Speaking of some of our amazing youth and young adults, Pennsylvania is well represented at National Grange Session in Spokane, Washington, again this year. The 2016-2017 Outstanding Young Patrons, Jennifer Nauss and Philip Vonada will be competing at

the national level for Outstanding Young Patron, and Sara Benzio, the 2016-2017 Female Youth Ambassador will be competing for National Youth Ambassador. Jennifer Nauss will also be presenting her 1st place public speaking speech and her 1st place piano solo during the Evening of Excellence. In addition, Jennifer Nauss and Cassidy Cheddar will be representing PA and the Eastern Region in the Grange Jeopardy competition. Derek Snyder and Grace Wadsworth were chosen to serve on the National Grange Youth Officer Team as Overseer and Ceres respectively.

As a reminder, if you are interested in upcoming events and activities for the youth, please send a request to join our page on Facebook: "Pennsylvania State Grange Youth and Young Adults". We will keep posting information on our events for 2018 as they become scheduled.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Ellen Wadsworth (Youth Director)
cell: 417-967-6474
e-mail: youth@pagrange.org
Facebook: Pennsylvania State Grange Youth and Young Adults



2017 PA State Grange Royalty with Ellen Wadsworth





Grange News

CRAWFORD COUNTY POMONA GRANGE

Recognizes Veterans

This year's recognition program included Veterans from Desert Storm, Persian Gulf and Iraqi Invasion and was held at the Atlantic IOOF Hall, Atlantic on Saturday, October 28th.

Receiving certificates prepared by the National Grange were Stephen Steigerwald, Conneautville from Ron Holler, Master and Nancy Holler, Secretary of Rundells Grange. Norman Pratt and Barry Lobdell were presented certificates from Pomona Master Kenneth Merritt and Michael Tau, Overseer.

Norman Pratt, Veteran of the Iraq War, and participant in the Home Grown by Heroes Program spoke regarding his participation in the program and what is available to Veterans interested in pursuing a business in the agricultural area. He, along with his father,



Pictured: Norman Pratt, Barry Lobdell & Stephen Steigerwald

operates Sleepy Creek Honey Maple Syrup in Venango Township. He was the first Veteran in Crawford County to become involved with the Home Grown By Heroes. When he first began, he only was producing maple syrup and has now expanded his business to include honeybees, crops and dairy

goats. He has been making maple syrup since 2004 and his operation has been on the Maple Tasting Tour in the spring for approximately eight years. He has applied for the honey to be certified as organic.

The Home Grown by Heroes program began in Kentucky and is now in 20 other states. It has approximately 1,000 Veterans in the program and is still new in many areas. The PA Preferred and Home Grown By Heroes labels have been meshed into one label. Benefits of the program include assisting with establishing a business plan in order to obtain funding, the marketing trends for advertising, and organic certification, which can take from 12-16 months, and providing labels for products. When participating in the program you are assigned a liaison with the organization to be available to work with you. This program is run by AgChoice Farm Credit, ACA.

Collene Munn of the Quilts of Valor program, accompanied by Linda McNamara, Linda Shaffer and Debi Crocker, presented a quilt to each of the Veterans. Mrs. Munn explained that the local Chapter started in March 2017. They gather once or twice a month to make the quilts. Each quilt is personalized for the Veteran receiving the quilt.

Crawford County Dairy Princess Brooke Carey, Titusville, presented her speech entitled "Making an Impact" and explained her duties serving as the Dairy Princess. The Dairy Princess Committee provided ice cream sundaes during the social time following the program.



Pictured: Quilts of Valor

Providing special music for the program were Christopher Seeley, Linesville on piano and Joe Galbo of Meadville on the cello.

Readings included "I Am A Veteran" by Virginia Shields and "The Ragged Old Flag" by Kenneth Merritt.

STONY POINT GRANGE #1694

Richard and Marilyn Parker were honored recently for their 70 and 73 years, respectively, of continuous Grange membership at Stony Point Grange. With them are Donna Zuschlag, lecturer at Stony Point; their daughter Lucy Clayton; State Grange Secretary Debbie Campbell; State Grange President Wayne Campbell; and Stony Point President Ken Ammann.





PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE #1738

Members of Plumsteadville Grange's quilting group created this beautiful Dresden Plate quilt that was raffled off at the last day of the Grange's 2017 farm market season. The raffle netted \$565, which will go toward farm market improvements. The farm market runs from May through October selling locally grown and produced



goods. Pictured are raffle winner Michael Bird of Buckingham PA and Meg Lomax of the Grange quilting group.

Mosier – 45 years; Alfred Stewart – 55 years; and Charles Black – 70 years.

BUTLER COUNTY POMONA GRANGE

Butler County Pomona Grange had their Annual All Granger Banquet on Monday October 2, 2017. There were approximately 30 members in attendance. We had some great entertainment. The highlight of our banquet is presenting someone with the Granger of the Year Award. This year was a special time as we presented two awards. The accompanying photo shows Richard Mangel, the Butler Co Pomona Grange Master. On Richards left is Jill Cavalero. She has been a member of Jefferson Grange since 2013 and is very involved in her Grange as well as many of community organizations and activities. Jill was pre-



sented the 2017 Community Service Award. On Richards right is Alleeda Lynn Shake. She has been a Granger for 35 years and is a member of Donegal Grange. She is very involved with her grange as

well as Pomona grange and when asked to do something she is always willing. Lynn was presented the 2017 Granger of the Year Award. Congratulations to both Lynn and Jill.

Continued on page 18

HAYFIELD GRANGE #800

Hayfield Grange recently honored members who received continuous membership recognition at the Hayfield Grange Annual Thanksgiving-Christmas dinner held Sunday, November 19th. Pictured: John Hotchkiss, Past Pomona Master, presented 35 year recognition letters from State Master Wayne Campbell to Betty White, Kenneth and Kevin Merritt. Kenneth Merritt, Pomona Master, presented a 50-year Golden Sheaf Certificate and pin to Chester Tau. Those to receive recognition but not present were: Richard and Patricia Hotchkiss – 15 years; Robert



VICTOR GRANGE
is selling delicious candy
to help re-do their 100 plus year old building.
Individual price: \$4.00
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To order Call
Linda Gilmore: 717-250-1480



TWO COUNTIES CELEBRATE

Photos by David R. Hay

Grangers in neighboring Cambria and Somerset Counties of Pennsylvania gathered together on October 7 at the Buckhorn Grange in Cambria County for a dinner celebration to honor the 150th anniversary of the National Grange. Nearly 40 persons attended the dinner and a joint program presented by representatives of the two counties.

Almost every year the same two counties alternate in hosting each other as a tradition that began nearly two decades ago when the two counties joined with several other neighboring counties in hosting an annual session of the Pennsylvania State Grange. Since then the counties alternate in hosting an event to



Some of Cambria and Somerset County officers that participated in the two-county celebration for the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange included these long-time Grangers: Seated in front: Margaret Storm, Master of Pleasant Hills Grange. Standing left to right: John Strittmatter, Master of Banner Grange; Jim Torence, Wills Master; Esther Mowry, Wills Lecturer; Joan Farabaugh, Cambria Pomona Treasurer; Mary Strittmatter, Cambria Pomona Lecturer, Carol Hemminger, Cambria County Pomona and Buckhorn Master, and David R. Hay, Somerset County Pomona and Hillcrest Lecturer.

which the neighboring county is invited.

Cambria County provided a chicken dinner while Somerset Countians provided a special decorated cake and ice cream to add to the celebration. Carol Hemminger,

150th anniversary of the National Grange. Cambria County is home to Banner, Pleasant Hills and Buckhorn subordinate Granges while Somerset County's subordinate Granges include Kingwood, Hillcrest and Wills.

who serves as Master/President of both the Buckhorn and the Cambria County Pomona Grange, welcomed local and visiting Grangers for the dinner and an afternoon program commemorating the 150th anniversary of the National Grange convention held in Washington, D.C. as well as a copy of the new quarterly publication, "Good Day" of the National Grange, which was introduced earlier this year as a new publication for Grange subscribers. Pennsylvania Grangers receive the publication Pennsylvania Grange News automatically with their annual Grange dues.

Gracie Wright of Cambria County shared two vocal solos. Mary Golden provided a humorous reading, "Eating in the 1950s". Somerset County Grangers led by David R. Hay, Program Director, provided several additional num-



The decorated cake honoring National Grange's 150th Anniversary!



150 YEARS OF NATIONAL GRANGE

bers. One number featured a quiz saluting the Grange organization which served as a learning tool as well as a brushing up on Grange knowledge for longer time members of the organization.

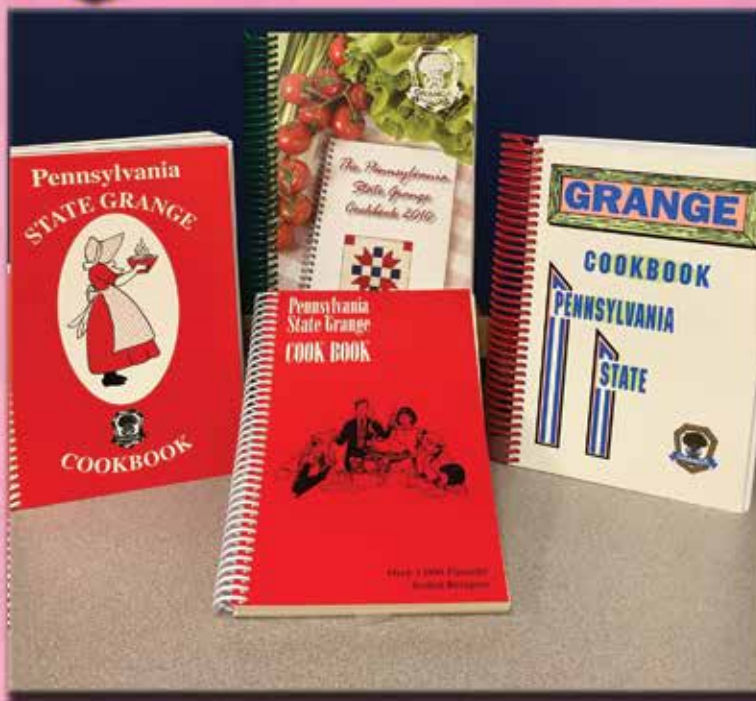
Virginia Hay signed to the song, "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone". A humorous skit entitled, "The New Boss' Big Mistake" was presented by Esther Mowry, Nancy Boucher, Jim Torrence, Virginia Hay and David Hay.



Carol Hemminger, Master of Buckhorn Grange, and Olive Brawley of Pleasant Hills Grange display a 1904 photo of delegates to the National Grange convention held in Washington, D.C.



Pennsylvania State Grange Cookbooks



1972 Edition (reprinted in 2012)
\$24.00 each (includes S&H)

2010 Edition
\$22.00 each (includes S&H)

1984 Edition
\$17.00 each (includes S&H)

1950 Edition
\$17.00 each (includes S&H)

**To order a Grange Cookbook,
please contact the Grange at:
20 Erford Road, Suite 216
Lemoyne, PA 17043
1-717-737-8855
www.pagrang.org (for order form)**



PORT MATILDA GRANGE #1284

Port Matilda Grange recently



sponsored an apple dumpling sale to benefit the Port Matilda EMS. A donation in the amount of \$750 was presented to the Port Matilda EMS by Port Matilda Grange #1284.

From left to right: Port Matilda Grange #1284 members- Edith Stine, Ella Lee Trulick, Virginia Letterman and Louise Giedroc; EMS members David Corle and Lindsey Moore and EMS Fundraising chair Karen Walk and co-chair Amy Maney

CAMBRIA COUNTY POMONA GRANGE

Cambria County Pomona Grange awarded \$500 scholar-



ships at a ceremony, July 19th, at Banner Grange in Ebensburg, PA. Presenting the awards were: John Strittmatter (Master of Banner Grange), Margret Storm (Master of Pleasant Hill Grange), and Carol Hemminger (Master of Buckhorn Grange & Cambria County Pomona Grange). The local Granges also awarded additional scholarships. Accepting scholarships were (third row): Nicole Wright, Alexis Niebauer, Dylan Kopera, (second row): Brady Price, Tori Boland, Luke Eckenrode, Isaac Friedhof, Kevin Venesky, (first row):

Patrick Huber, Zachary Stoltz, Anthony Huber, Maria Schall, Alex Murphy and Eileen Shoemaker.

SINKING VALLEY GRANGE #484



Pictured: Kathy Fagan, Judy Patterson, Melissa Gormont, Linda Myers & Sandy Snyder w/ "Rocky"

In honor of our deployed military soldiers overseas, one of our community service projects was to make Christmas Stockings and crochet red, white, green or blue stockings for Christmas. A total of 148 stockings were made for the soldiers from our Granges. With the help of Bellwood Elementary School, students and teachers

filled the beautiful stockings with personal care items, candy and cards. In partnership with Military Family Ministries, the stockings will be sent out to service men and women overseas. Pictured are the ladies of our Grange that made stockings for Christmas. Melissa Gormont, PTO President of Meyers Elementary School, enlightened us to this wonderful project for our deployed soldiers.

ORIENTAL GRANGE #165

Russ & Pat Gunton and Dale & Judy Shupp standing next to the



Oriental Grange's First Place Blue Ribbon exhibit at the 2017 Wyoming County Community Fair.



Where We've Been Seen: Recently this article showed up on Secretary Russell's Facebook page





STATE SESSION & NATIONAL SESSION "Snapshots"



1



6



2



7



3



4



5



8



9

Photo 1:
PA State Session "2017 Granger of the Year" Award presented to Harry Keith

Photo 2:
PA State Session "2017 Grange Officers"

Photo 3:
PA State Session "All Grange Banquet"

Photo 4:
PA State Session "Pies in the face"

Photo 5:
PA State Session "Junior Grangers"

Photo 6:
National Grange Session "National Delegates"

Photo 7:
National Grange Session "Youth Officers"

Photo 8:
National Grange Session "National WINNER OF THE CODE READING COMPETITION!" Jennifer Nauss doing code reading in front of the delegates and patrons attending the Friday morning session. A new national youth contest. This was the first year for it. Congratulations Jennifer!

Photo 9:
National Grange Session "Pennsylvania State Grange President: Wayne Campbell, and Pennsylvania State Grange Secretary: Debbie Campbell"

Photos taken by Lurae Benzio



Back to the Land: Beating Back Old Man Winter!

Break out of the norm and try some REALLY old-fashioned recipes...sure to make both kids and “kids-at-heart” have a blast!

Every year, after the holidays are over, a large number of Pennsylvanians experience the “Winter Blues”. The Christmas tree is down, the company has left the house, the snow is piling up and the sun plays a great game of “hide and seek”! So, what can you do to shake off the doldrums? How about learning a new skill? All around the state there are just loads of no to low-cost courses being taught all year round. You could learn almost anything...from beer and winemaking, to Master Gardening, to knitting, to raising chickens in your backyard. This winter I decided my “projects” would be to: paint one of the guest rooms a New England theme, and I’m going to attempt to build a horse-drawn road cart...from scratch. My husband has decided he’s going to learn how to grow hops and try his hand at brewing his own beer...not necessarily in that order (the beer is brewing as I type). So what have YOU always wanted to learn...but couldn’t find the time or materials to learn? I’ve decided to use our Back to the Land column to share some very informative websites...chock full of learning opportunities.

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener? **“Master Gardener Basic Training”**



When: Jan 13, 2018, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Wayne County Extension Office, 648 Park Street, Honesdale, PA 18431

Do you have an interest in gardening, a willingness to learn more, and a strong desire to help others? Please join us to start your path in becoming a Penn State Master Gardener. Applications are now being accepted through November 27, 2017.

<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/events>

How about taking up beekeeping? **“Beekeeping 101”**



This online course about the science and practice of beekeeping is for beginning beekeepers. It covers bee biology and behavior, hive management, equipment, bee products, and more.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

- People interested in getting started in beekeeping
- People with some experience who want to learn more about the

science of beekeeping
WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- Science of honeybees
 - Practices of experienced beekeepers
 - Bee biology and behavior
 - How to use typical beekeeping clothing and equipment
 - How to manage a hive throughout the year
 - Identify and treat common bee pests and diseases
 - Understand various bee products you and your bees can make
 - Understand pollination and the role bees play in it
- <https://extension.psu.edu/beekeeping-101>

If you own a farm...do you have a plan in place for your children to inherit?

“Succession Planning: What’s Your Exit Strategy?”

Empowering families to get started on their succession plan.

What’s Your Exit Strategy? is a multi-session workshop developed to help families:

- Get started on their plan
- Open lines of communication
- Work with professionals

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Families interested in shaping the future ownership of the family farm whether that is transferring a



viable business to the next generation or determining how to divide farm and personal assets. Various locations and dates around the state.

<https://extension.psu.edu/succession-planning-what-s-your-exit-strategy>

Interested in impressing your friends and family by bringing out your own “homebrew” at the next gathering?

<https://www.homebrewersassociation.org/how-to-brew/beginner/how-to-make-beer/>



Tired of a cold lap when you’re reading a book, on the sofa, in the evening? How about taking up quilting?

<http://sewdelicious.com.au/2012/09/quilting-for-beginners.html>



Are you a crafty DIYer? Well...I may have found the website for YOU!

<http://www.designsponge.com/2015/02/winterdiyprojects.html>

They’ve got some truly great little projects listed for beating back the winter boredom!



And this website has literally hundreds of craft ideas...if you’re still trying to find something creative to get into:

<https://craftsbyamanda.com/category/craft-tutorials/adult-crafts/>



And lets not forget about those extra couple pounds we all gained between Thanksgiving and New Years!

How about starting a little workout program? Exercise has been proven to improve ones mood as well as ones health. Please do be careful when starting a new exercise program... always check with your doctor to make sure you are healthy enough to begin any new exercise plan. If you’re healthy enough to start a

new exercise plan...but don’t know where to start...here are a couple good resources:

- <https://healthyforgood.heart.org>
- <https://www.alive.com/health/a-beginners-guide-to-getting-fit-and-healthy/>
- <http://www.ymca.net/health-wb-fitness>

And now that you’ve done something to cheer your self up...



how about helping out someone else? Some ideas for helping others:

- Volunteer at your local hospital to visit with hospitalized children.



- Volunteer at your local soup kitchen. Everyone always helps out around the holidays...but the need for volunteers is just as high after the holidays as it is during the holidays.

- Volunteer to help wounded veterans. Many veterans need help running errands, rehabilitating from injuries, and sometimes just a friendly person to play cards with and talk to.

Be positive...spring is just around the corner!

- Heather Hiller



SPECIAL THANK YOU!!!

Many thanks to all who purchased items at the Past State Officers Sales Table during the 2017 State Session. Profits from this along with donations from Past State Officers are given back to PA State Grange committees: Youth, Juniors, Deaf & Community Service, State Foundation, History as well as the National Grange Chiller Project. They each received \$200. Thanks to Susan Tau for contacting Monroe, accepting the merchandise and seeing that it gets to State Session as well as shipping items back. Also thanks to Kelly VanOrd for working the sales table every day. - Jean Hollabaugh, CoChair with Susan

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Progress Grange #96

Pope, Juliet

Halfmoon #290

Coady, Debra

Coady, Merrill

Snyder, David

Shaver's Creek #353

Fegley, Candy

Hartslog Valley #375

Mccessney, Walter

Girard #788

Owens, Megan

California #941

Whitmoyer, Roy

Whitmoyer, Robert

Summers, Gail

Hall, Mary

Roseville #1290

Sherman, Char

Sherman, Rick

Bunker Hill #1368

Wilson, Pamela: Youth

Jefferson Grange #1373

Yobbi, Louis

Venango #1705

Abramovic, Albert

East Franklin Grange #1709

Burgerss, Joseph L

McLane- Shroger, Susan

Plumsteadville #1738

Hellerick, Paul

Shaver, June

Shipe, Kacy

Kowal, Mark

Gouglersville #1743

Heim, Tammie

Community #1767

Buskey, Macy: Junior

Virginville #1832

Blatt, Alex N.

Fayette #1948

Zitney, Susan

Cochranton Grange #2030

Donahue, Emily

Log Cabin Unity #2110

Shinsky, Raymond

IN MEMORIAM

Keystone #2

Morelli, Marion

Wojton, Henry

Sanatoga #25

Evans, Dorothy

Overly, Mary

Seeders, Ruth

Sheshequin #58

Gilpin, Wilmer

Brandywine #60

Folchman, Norman

Shaw, Elizabeth

Progress #96

Yearick, John

Logan #109

Yarnell, Lena

Goshen #121

Zug, Dorothy

Union #152

Himka, Harriet

Kinney, Felicia

Williams, Lyman

Marion #223

Rogers, Mildred

Windfall #257

Shedden, Leon

Hartslog Valley #375

Seiner, Florence

Sinking Valley #484

Forshey, Mary Lou

Middletown #684

Andre, Marguerite

Gramm, Hans

Turbett #781

Stouffer, Charles

Hayfield Grange #800

Mercier, Dr. Herbert

Forest #853

Peel, William

Vernon #936

Williams, Roger

Warriers Mark #974

Ormsby, Catherine

Fairdale #1157

Hardic, Ray

South Auburn #1188

Mowry, Elston

Overfield, Jill

East Lynn #1263

Agliamo, Margaret

Davidson, Leonard

Gabe, Mildred

Kimberton #1304

Wilson, Everett H.

Carmichaels Grange #1389

Everly, Eugene

Marshallton Grange #1394

Supplee, Florence

Richland #1413

Lehman, Roy

London #1492

Steese, C. Frances

Buffalo #1523

Colon, John

Knox, Lloyd

Fassett #1567

Patterson, Onalou

Ontelaunee #1617

Straus, Norman

Seipstown Grange #1657

Sterner, Lucy

Hillcrest #1674

Paul, Ralph

Paul, Doyle

Wills #1690

Reffner, Dorothy

Shaffer, Florence

Luce, Alverta

East Franklin Grange #1709

Buchanon, Jean

Plumsteadville #1738

Crooke, Leonard

Hastings, Robert

Perry Valley #1804

Bonsall, Joan

Weimer, Reba

Virginville #1832

Reinsel, Esther

Seidel, Betty

Kutztown Grange #1836

Hensing, Elmer

Fleetwood #1839

Snyder, Alma

Pleasant Hill #1861

Yahner, Stephen

Mt. Nebo #1872

Brown, Rev. Molly

Brown, Rev. Victor

Bernville #1887

Shartle, Janet

Diahoga #1951

Kingsley, Richard

Unionville #1971

Wagner, MaryAnn

Baileyville Grange #1991

Homan, Laura

Community #2048

Herman, Marlin

Shenango Twp #2057

Gault, Sarah

Madison #2064

Kennedy, Arthur

Stambaugh, Perry

Log Cabin Unity #2110

Straub, Richard

SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

Gideon Grange #2010

Alice B. Fox, Age 102

Treva Leese, Age 93

CLASSIFIED & BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISEMENTS

Order Form

Placing a classified ad or business card ad in the **PENNSYLVANIA GRANGE NEWS** is incredibly easy! Just fill out this order form, write out your check (made payable to Pennsylvania State Grange), and mail your order and payment to the State Grange office at:

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- Business Card rates are \$375 for the entire year (only \$62.50 per issue)!

_____ Business Card Ad _____ Classified Ad (please check one)

Category (Please tell us a category you'd like your classified ad to be in) _____

(For Business Cards, please include your business card with your order form and payment)

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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please don't forget to include your phone number, so we can contact you if we have questions.

2018 CALENDAR

January	February	March	April
6-13th: Farm Show (Harrisburg)		16-18th: Mid-Atlantic Leaders Conference	National Grange Month 5-8th: Young Adults Weekend
May	June	July	August
	Dairy Month 29-July 1st: Youth Camp (Howard)	1-7th: Junior Camp (Howard) 19-22nd: Family Festival (Centre Hall)	14-16th: Penn State Ag Progress Days. (Pennsylvania Furnace)
September	October	November	December
	19-21st: State Grange Session (Butler)	13-17: 152nd National Grange Session (Vermont)	

Jan 01	New Year's Day
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day
Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday
Feb 16	Chinese New Year
Feb 19	President's Day
Mar 11	Daylight Saving (begin)
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 20	Vernal equinox
Mar 31	Passover
Apr 01	April Fool's Day
Apr 01	Easter
Apr 25	Admin Assistants Day
May 13	Mother's Day
May 16	Ramadan begins
May 20	Pentecost
May 28	Memorial Day
Jun 14	Flag Day
Jun 17	Father's Day
Jun 21	June Solstice
Jul 04	Independence Day
Sep 03	Labor Day
Sep 10	Rosh Hashanah
Sep 23	Autumnal equinox
Oct 08	Columbus Day
Oct 31	Halloween
Nov 04	Daylight Saving (end)
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 22	Thanksgiving
Dec 02	Hanukkah begins
Dec 21	December Solstice
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Kwanzaa begins
Dec 31	New Year's Eve

Pennsylvania State Grange
Pennsylvania Grange News
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WHAT CAN THE GRANGE DO FOR YOU?

BENEFITS

National Grange Benefits

- Choice Hotels International: Members save 20%
- Constellation Energy: Switch to CE and receive a \$50 Visa Prepaid Card
- CVS Caremark: Savings up to 50% with CVS RxSavings Plus Card
- National Grange Travel Center
- Safeguard Complete: Members receive 50% off first year
- TSYS Merchant Solutions

Pennsylvania State Grange Benefits

- American Income Life: All members receive a \$3000 Accidental Death Benefit
- Avis Rental Car: Discounted Member rates
- BJ's Wholesale Club: Discounted membership fee
- Comfort Keepers In-Home Care
- Fastenal: Member discounts up to 40% off specific products
- Vision Insurance
- AgraCo: Member discount of 5% on fly traps/mosquito patches
- Country Home Products: Member discount of 5% on all phone ordered products
- Florian Tools: Member discount of 10% on all tools
- Rohrer Seeds: Member discount of 5% on all seeds

The PA 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
1 (717) 737-8855**