POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

BERKS COUNTY GRANGE WEBSITE: berkscountygrange.org

Contact person to add items to website: Jennifer Beamon at: jennifermarie707@gmail.com

COMMENTS FROM YOUR COUNTY PRESIDENT Nettie A. Kauffman

I know this newsletter does not reach your household till February, but I would like to say "Welcome to the New Year" and let's see what transpires for our Granges for 2024!

We have an extra day added to our calendar this year; the year brings us another important election year; our Granges will also be having elections this year; and who knows what might occur in our everyday lives.

With an extra day added to our lives this year, what will you do with that day? I know I will probably be spending some time in preparation for my home Grange for their monthly breakfast on March 3.

Since this year is going to be a year in which we will be selecting the President of the United States, let us be mindful of the Grange's position on "politicking" in our Granges, or at Grange activities – Chapter 10 (Code of All Granges) from the National Grange Digest of Laws in section 10.1.4 states: "No Grange of the various divisions of the order shall use or allow to be used any name, insignia or mark of the Order in a manner which could indicate support, approval or opposition of any candidate for political office or any partisan political position." In other words…don't use the Grange's name in support of one candidate over another, we are nonpartisan.

In mentioning elections, this is the year Granges would be electing new officers for their Subordinate and Pomona Grange. Each Subordinate needs to do their suggesting and then electing whom they desire to fill their officer's chairs. On the Pomona level, the suggestion of officers will take place at our March meeting. The following officer's terms expire and a replacement must be found for the office – President (Nettie Kauffman), Vice-President (Robert Kleckner), Steward (Denise Clare), Lady Assistant Steward (Linda Stewart), and E.C. member (Steve Mohn). Officers who are seated in the following office positions can be reelected to another two/three year term in their current position – Program Coordinator (Debra Kieffer), Assistant Stewart (Isaac Mengel), Chaplain (Diane Adams), (continued page 6)

NEXT COUNTY MEETING: March 2, 2024 Hosted by Marion Grange (Trinity United Church of Christ Rehrersburg, 27 Maria Street, Bethel)

FEBRUARY 2024

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Berks County Junior Grange News

2023 Junior Attendance Contest Winners

In order to win a prize for the Junior Attendance contest juniors had to participate in the following: at least one junior contest on the State level, the WAT fundraiser and 4 or more events...

Congrats to:

- Riley Beamon
- Savannah Beamon
- Lillian Dusko
- Justin Dusko
- Codey Fayewicz
- Nolan Fayewicz
- Carisa Schaeffer
- Ellie Schroeder
- Jacob Schroeder

Line dancing Fundraiser

March 16th at Virginville Grange

Set up 6pm Doors open at 6:30 Dancing 7-9pm *time change from calendar* Clean up 9-10pm

\$5 admission, additional donations accepted
Food for sale:
\$5 – Hotdog, snack or baked good,

\$2 – any single item (drink, baked good, snack, hot dog)

If any Grange or Granger would like to donate baked goods, let Gail know by March 1st.

2024 Junior Attendance Contest

In order to qualify, a junior member must participate in at least 3 junior events (i.e. sleepover, camp, swim party, bowling), the line dancing fundraiser, and 1 contest on the State level.

Upcoming activities:

- ♦ Sleepover (February 9-10, Fleetwood)
- ◊ March Pomona (March 2nd, Marion no scheduled junior activity)
- Line Dancing Fundraiser (March 16 set up starts 6pm, Virginville)
- ♦ County Camp (May 17-19, Blue Mountain Camp)
- June Pomona (June 1st, Ontelaunee no scheduled junior activity)
- ♦ Knoebels (June 11th)

 \Diamond

- ♦ State Youth Camp (June 28-June 30) 13/14 yrs invited
- ♦ State Camp (June 30 July 6, Camp Sylvan Hills)
- Swim Party (July 13, 6-9pm, Schoey Pool)
- September Pomona (September 7th, Virginville activity TBD)
- ♦ Mini Golf (September 22, 4pm, at Kauffman's)
- ♦ Roller Skating (November 24, 1pm, at Fantasy)
 - December Pomona (December 14, Fleetwood activity TBD)

Junior Volunteers over 18:

Clearances must be submitted to the state in order to support at junior events, including camp!

New Camp Location for 2024! May 17-19 Blue Mountain Camp (Olivet Boys and Girls Club)

Camp Coronation – May 19th at 2pm

Next Meeting: April 1st, 7pm on Zoom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS February—May 2024

Feb. 9-10 Junior Sleepover @Fleetwood

Feb. 17 Ontelaunee Junior Grange Spaghetti Dinner, 4-8 p.m. (see article for details)

Mar. 2 County Meeting @Marion (Trinity United Church of Christ Rehrersburg, 27 Maria Street, Bethel

Mar. 3 Ontelaunee Grange Breakfast, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mar. 4 Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale*

Mar. 4 Kutztown Grange Basket Bingo^

Mar. 7 R & K Sub sale. Orders due by Feb. 2. Call Marlo, 610-413-4875, to order or visit Fleetwood Grange Facebook page

Mar. 10 Virginville Grange Bingo Benefit (see article for details)

Mar. 15 Hoedown @Fleetwood Grange #

Mar. 16 Junior Fundraiser: Line Dancing @Virginville Grange, 7—9 p.m. (note: time change—see junior page for details)

Mar. 19 Ontelaunee Grange Community Night, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 23 Hamburg Grange Pot Pie Dinner, 4-7 p.m. (see article for details)

Mar. 27 Ag-Legislative Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7:30 p.m.

Mar. 29 Pioneer Grange PA Dutch Potato Filling Sale**

Mar. 29 Kutztown Grange PA Dutch Potato Filling and Bacon Dressing Sale^^

Apr. 1 Jr. Grange Team Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Apr. 6 Kutztown Grange AYCE Pot Pie Dinner, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Apr. 7 Ontelaunee Grange Breakfast, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Apr. 8 Pioneer Grange Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sale***

Apr. 15 Kutztown Grange Basket Bingo^

Apr. 16 Hamburg Grange R & K Sandwich Sale (see article for details)

Apr. 19 ECHO Deadline

Apr. 21 Go-to-Church Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Zion's Moselem Lutheran Church, 340 Moselem Church Road, Kutztown

Apr. 25 Fleetwood Community Night Program, 6:30 p.m. Light meal at 6:30; Program at 7:30 p.m.

May 1 Virginville Grange Community Night Program, 7:30 p.m.

May 5 Ontelaunee Grange Breakfast, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

May 6 Collate ECHO @Ontelaunee Grange, 3:15 p.m. (Geigertown/Ontelaunee assists)

May 6 Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale****

May 11 Hamburg Grange Backwoods Brothers fundraiser (see article for details)

<u>^March 4 & April 15 Kutztown Grange :</u> tickets, \$20; call 610-395-3889 for tickets Doors open @5:30 p.m.; starts 6:45 p.m.

<u>*March 4 Pioneer Grange:</u> \$6.00 Order deadline is Feb. 25 Pickup at the Grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

#March 15 Fleetwood Grange: Music by Days of Old. Doors open at 6 p.m.; Music, 7-10 p.m.. Food for sale. Admission: by donation

**March 29 Pioneer Grange: 1.5 lbs for \$5; 2.5 lbs for \$7. Pickup at the Grange hall, 2—4 p.m. Deadline to order is March 21. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

<u>^^March 29 Kutztown Grange:</u> Pick up 3—6 p.m. Orders must be in by March 20. Call 610-395-3889.

<u>***April 8 Pioneer Grange</u>: Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sale, \$4. Deadline to order is March 27. Pickup at the hall from 3—5 p.m. Call Tammy to order at 610-463-7213

<u>****May 6 Pioneer Grange:</u> \$6.00 Order deadline is April 28. Pickup at the Grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

YOUTH REPORT by Erica Berger

Hello,

The Youth will not attend a Reading Royals game this year due to the lack of interest shown by youth and young adults on Facebook. Remember—check the website if you are unsure if a particular event will be happening—or call the appropriate grange/leader for final verification

COMMUNITY NIGHT PROGRAMS 2024

March 19—Ontelaunee Grange, 7:30 p.m.

April 25—Fleetwood Grange, 6:30 p.m. (meal) 7:30 p.m. (program)

May 1—Virginville Grange, 7:30 p.m.

(please check ahead of time to make sure activity will be held)

PROGRAM COORDINATOR by Deb Kieffer

Can't believe we are already in the 2nd month of 2024. As I'm writing this I can hear the winds howling. It was 43° when I was outside this morning and it's supposed to drop into the 20s and teens this week. Brrrrr.

I hope everyone had great holidays with family and friends. Before we know it things will start showing new life again after being dormant for the winter.

I will not be at the March Pomona meeting so Desiree Rickenbach, our Outstanding Youth Patron, will be doing the program for me.

I hope that you have a successful meeting and I will see you at the next meeting.

GO-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Zion's Moselem Lutheran Church 340 Moselem Church Road, Kutztown

10:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICE by Carlene Kleckner

Hi everyone. Hope you all are doing well and had a good holiday season. A big thank you to all that took a Angle tree tags. We did 100 tags this year.

For next meeting we are donating to the Humane Society of Berks County. Please bring dog and cat food that is wet or dry. Kitty litter, cat treats, dog treats, and old blankets. Shredded newspaper, cleaning supplies, office supplies, dog toys, cat toys, hamster and rabbit food.

Hope to see you all at meeting and have a safe winter.

HAMBURG GRANGE POT PIE DINNER

The Hamburg Grange is sponsoring an AYCE Homemade Chicken Pot Pie Dinner on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 4-7PM at the Hamburg High School, 701 Windsor St., Hamburg. All Proceeds will benefit the Hamburg Fire Company.

Cost is Dine-In for Adults \$13, 3-8 \$5, 2 and under free Take-Out Meals and Quarts \$11

Bake Sale available. For more info, please contact Michael Adams @ 610-562-5933

HAMBURG GRANGE R&K SANDWICH SALE

The Hamburg Grange will be selling R&K subs for \$7 and pretzels sandwiches for \$6 for **Tuesday**, **April 16**, **2024**. You can pick up your order from 4-6PM @ 141 South Third Street, Hamburg. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Beamon @ 484-769-4431 or Michael Adams @ 610-562-5933 by **Monday**, **April 8**, **2024**.

HAMBURG GRANGE BACKWOODS BROTHERS FUNDRAISER

The Hamburg Grange will be hosting and AYCE Backwoods Brothers event on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 11AM to 7:30PM. They are located at 272 South Fourth Street, Hamburg.

Adults \$20.00, 5-10 \$13.99, Under 5 free

BERKS HEIM by Anna Heffner

Church services are happening on Sundays at 2:30. We need volunteers for the following Sundays: 2/11, 3/10, 5/12, 6/02, 6/16 6/30, 7/07, 7/14, 8/11, 9/01, 9/29, 10/20, 11/17, 12/01, 12/15, & 12/29. I am waiting for response from Kutztown, Fleetwood, Gouglersville, and Geigertown. Please call Anna Heffner (610-207-9755) if you can help with this activity

Christmas activities were successful. Items for Santa's Corner will be needed before next Christmas. More on this next Echo.

The Volunteer Service Board is still in need of new members! If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a member call me. You can become a representative for your church or other organization or as an independent member.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Kenneth Schlegel

I think we're living in one of the Greatest Countries in the world! But let's look at a couple of things!

Our debt ceiling. Fiscal Cliff I. . . . Lesson #1 U. S. Tax revenue \$2,170,000,000,000. Fed budget \$3,820,000,000,000 New debt: \$1,650,000,000,000 National debt: \$14,271,000.000,000 Recent budget cuts: \$38,500.000.000

Let's now remove 8 zeros and pretend it's a household budget.

Annual family income: \$21,700 Money the family spent: \$38,200 New debt on the credit card: \$16,500 Outstanding balance on the credit card: \$142,710 Total budget cuts so far: \$38.50

Got it??....OK now,

Lesson #2 Here's another way to look at the Debt Ceiling: Let's say you come home from work and find there has been a sewer backup in your neighborhood.... and your home has sewage all the way up to your ceiling What do you think you should do.... Raise the ceiling, or remove the s----.

And then are we are going to elect a new president???? I think our current President says he's the best, his party doesn't really agree. But now Michelle Obama is thinking about running. Then it's the other party. Currently Mr. Trump is way out in front, on all polls. Niki Halley is coming on fast! And now some experts are claiming there will be a third party candidate, interesting!!!!

"The usual mess in politics"

LET'S SAVE POMONA MONEY!

If you know you will be moving, please inform your Grange Secretary of your address change so she/he can forward that "change of address" to Fern to update ECHO mailings.

Better yet, why not give your email address to Fern Kulp so you can receive the ECHO paperless. Fern would send you an email notifying you that the current ECHO newsletter is now available on the grange website (berkscountygrange.org).

In addition, you would receive the ECHO newsletter in advance of those who receive the paper copy. (Email Fern at: clk19530@enter.net Subject line: ECHO email address)

Thanks for your consideration.

(appreciate those of you who have already changed to paperless.)

Virginville Grange Community Service Committee

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

At our benefit bingo in November, we were able to help Abbey Brewer who is a community member battling cancer. We were able to present Abbey with a check at our December meeting. Thank you all who came out to come out to play, helped with Bingo, or made baked goods to sell. Additionally, 482 canned goods were collected and delivered to Keystone Military Families in Shoemakersville.

In December, we also rang the bell for the Salvation Army at the Redner's in Hamburg. We appreciate everyone who donated their time or money to help a worthy cause to help members in the community during the holiday season.

A new year means another opportunity for the community service committee to help others in need in the community. We invite you to come out for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at our annual bingo on **Sunday, March 10th, 2024**. A recipient has yet to be determined. Packages are \$25.00 each with upgrades and special games available. Come early for lunch as doors open at 11:30 a.m. Games will begin at 1:00 p.m. Prizes include Thirty-One bags and cash. Keep an eye out in your email or mailbox for a flyer! If you are interested in playing, please contact Denise Clare at 610-562-3876 or David Geschwindt at 610-562-7421 to reserve your seat today.

As always, we are looking for the names of individuals or groups that could benefit from our help. Please do not hesitate to contact any committee member with suggestions.

ONTELAUNEE JUNIOR GRANGE 13 ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER



Saturday, February 17, 2024 4 p.m.—8 p.m.

> 13 and over \$10 3—12 yr old \$6 2 and under FREE

All you can eat-price includes salad bar & dessert

There will also be Raffle Baskets

Ontelaunee Grange Hall 1076 Grange Road Leesport PA 19533

POMONA GRANGE HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights from the December 9, 2023, Pomona Grange meeting hosted by Hamburg Grange. Again, we would rather have you in attendance to help make decisions and for your input.

- Representative from the Salvation Army gave us a report and thanked the Pomona Grange for their donations to the Angel Tree program again this year.
- Pomona officers/department chairs have been assigned to the following dates to assist with Berks Heim: January 14, April 14, June 9, October 13. Let Nettie know date(s) you can help.
- Approved Secretary stipend, set at \$150, be paid in June.
- Approved stipend paid for using Ontelaunee Grange hall for various meetings of \$300 be paid in December.
- Attendance: 11 Brothers; 25 Sisters; 2 Juniors; 1 Mini-Junior Total: 41
- Taxes were submitted to the accountant for the latest fiscal year
- Henry Seidel, Finance Committee, provided an audit report from the November 2023 audit. Approved.
- County Junior Grange Camp will be held at the Olivet Boys & Girls Camp in 2024
- \$1000 was collected for the Wernersville State Hospital Christmas gifts
- At the National Level the ages have changed for Youth (15-20) and Young Adults (21-25)
- Eleven members brought cookies to exchange this morning to exchange and donate to the local veterans organization
- Kenneth Schlegel shared topics from the latest Ag-Legislative Committee meeting
- Michael Adams reported that all lottery calendars were distributed. All calendar stubs and monies are due to him by March 1.
- Chicken BBQ, September 1, 2024, will be held at Ontelaunee Grange Hall. Chickens by Kauffman's BBQ this year.
- Approved paying Ontelaunee Grange \$45 for the use of their electric for the BBQ
- Selling of 50/50 raffle tickets for 2024 was discussed. Due to licensing issues, this will be put on hold until 2025.
- Motion to purchase an annual license for small games of chance for \$125 for September 1, 2024, through August 30. 2025, was approved.
- Winner of ECHO contest: Karen Mohn, Marion Grange
- Grace Reber reported on the Santa's Workshop that was held at Berks Heim
- Membership as of 12/2/2023: 919
- Received a thank you note from Owen Kutz for sponsoring his animals in 4-H livestock sale
- Renewed BARN membership, \$50
- Reminded that the various departments need to submit an income/expense report for the previous quarter at each Pomona meeting
- 2026 State Session: If you are willing to help, please contact Barbara or Derek Schroeder (co-chairs)
- For literary program, a wrapped box was passed around as a guessing game. Denise Clare guessed correctly—Tastycake donuts). Other games were played.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Greeter (Richard Kieffer), Ceres (Desira Rickenbach), Pomona (Autumn Tworkoski), Flora (Donna Kunkle), E.C. (Andrew Kieffer - 2026, Walter Ernst – 2028, Finance Committee (Anna Heffner - 2025 Henry Seidel – 2026, Ann Riegel – 2027). The following officer positions are unlimited terms; currently Jen Beamon (Secretary) and Shirley Breininger (Treasurer) hold these positions, as well as Pian-ist – Fern Kulp. I am hoping, and praying, that our membership will come to the March meeting and provide names for the replacement of those whose terms will expire.

I would like to thank those officers/department chairs who have come forward to take some time out of their schedules on a Sunday to help transport residents to the church services at Berks Heim. There is still a need for officers/department chairs help on June 9 and October 13. I know these dates seem a long time off, but if we plan now and put it on our schedules (calendar or cell phone) you will have a reminder to help others. The residents look forward to this activity provided for them.

There will be other activities during the up-coming summer months where volunteerism will be needed. I hope our members throughout the county (not only Pomona members, but the Subordinate as well) will help in some fundraising events for the county. We will be asked to help in the food stands at the Berks County Fair (July 12, 13, 14, and 15) and at the Oley Valley Fair (September 20, 21, 22). Information will be forwarded to the Granges on these two activities for the County Grange.

Wintertime will still be with us by the time our March county meeting takes place. Hopefully, we will not have any snow inci-

dents in order to make any kind of a decision on cancellation. **IF** such an incident would need to be considered, please check on the web -site for on an announcement. Website address: berkscountygrange.org

In the meantime, during these cold and possibly snow events, do something constructive with your time and check the various contests in the Junior, Youth, Family Activities, Lecturer's departments for some interesting crafts and projects to be completed. Stay warm and safe!

Berks County Pomona Family Activities - Jane Reppert

With the New Year here and the cold weather outside, it is a great time to start working on some grange activities and contest entries. Why not get started early? So, when the warmer weather comes, you can spend time outside doing gardening and other outdoor activities.

I would like to thank everyone supported the Family Activities during the past year by entered the contests and helped in the family Activities projects.

With out your help and support, many of our donations during the years would not be possible. It is great to see many volunteers in our organization. The Pomona Family Activities donated \$100 to the Keystone Military Families the last quarter in 2023.

Thank you to those that brought Christmas cookies to the December Pomona meeting for the cookie exchange and to make boxes of cookies to donation. There were 11 members who participated in the exchange. We packed 12 boxes of cookies which were donated to the Keystone Military Families for their food distribution.

I hope your subordinate Family Activities chairperson or secretary received the new contest and rules for this year. I do have a copy of the 2024 contests if you need on. Please give me a call and I will see you get it or you can get one at the March Pomona meeting. The needlework/craft contest are the same as last year, except for the Quilt Square and the baking contests are different. If you like to guilt, knit, crochet, embroider, tin punch, stenciling, or bake, there is something for you to enter. Will you help your grange to have some entries this year? The judging at the Pomona level will be at the September Pomona meeting, so you have plenty of time to finish an entry or two.

The 150th Anniversary State Grange Cookbooks are still available for purchase. If you would like one, you can call me (610-562-2647) and we can make arrangements to get it. The cost is \$25.00 per book.

A special project for the Pomona Family Activities is making **"Walker Organizers"**. I have patterns to crochet and sew if you at interested in making some. However, you can use any pattern for walker organizers you wish. The walker organizers will go to nursing homes or member of the grange who could use one.

Don't forget about the **Pomona Family Activities meeting at 9:00 a.m. before the Pomona Meeting** to discuss projects we want to do for the next year and to make our quarterly donations. Please come with new ideas for projects and fundraisers for the coming year. You do not have to be a Family Activities chairperson to attend this meeting. Anyone is welcome with new ideas.

We will be going out to eat after Pomona for lunch at "Kauffman's Chicken BBQ". See more information below.

If you have any questions about anything, please call me at 610-562-2647. If I am not at home, just leave a message and I will get back to you.

I hope everyone started out the New Years healthy and will stay that way. Also, I hope everyone has a blessed Easter and a great Spring.

Quotes: May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold and at the end of your rainbows may you find a pot of gold. (Old Irish Blessing)

May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearth and home. (Irish Blessing)

Going as a group out to eat after Pomona Meeting.

Place: Kauffman's Chicken BBQ Address: 254 Gravel Pit Road, Bethel, Pa 19507

Type of Restaurant: American Cuisine (sandwiches, full meals, etc.) Time: After Pomona, around 12:30-12:45 p.m. Cost: Each person will pay their own bill.

We will ask you to sign-up when you get to Pomona, so we can call the restaurant and let them know approximately how many people to expect. So, they are ready for us.

HOPE you can join us.

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CONTEST CORNER

NAME _

GRANGE

Bring completed form along to Pomona. Must be present to win.

As I write this, we are having the 2nd snowstorm for the week. Who knows we may have snow for Easter this year since it is at the end of March. Do you know your Eater trivia?

1.	Easter is the holiday that sells the most candy? True or False
2.	How many chocolate bunnies are produced each year? A. 10,000 B. 75,000 C. 90 million D. 500,000
3.	The first Easter eggs were dyed what color? A. Blue B. Red C. Green D. Yellow
4.	How many jellybeans are consumed each Easter? A. 16 million B. 5 million C. 36 million D. 1 million
5.	When was the first White House Easter egg roll? A. 1950 B. 1900 C. 1825 D. 1878
6.	Marshmallow Peeps are the most popular Easter candy in America? True or False
7.	What is the Sunday before Easter called?
8.	How many states consider Good Friday a holiday? A. 50 B. 12 C. 25 D. 32
9.	Which country started the egg dying tradition? A. US B. Germany C. Ukraine D. Russia
10.	Easter's date is determined by what? A. Moon B. President C. Stars D. Vote
11.	Cadbury Crème Eggs are filled with fondant. True or False
12.	Which state did the Easter bunny first appear? A. WA B. FL C. NY D. PA
13.	What color jellybean is the most popular? A. Purple B. Red C. Black D. White
14.	What season does Easter take place in Australia?A. FallB. SpringC. WinterD. Summer
15.	What state held the largest Easter egg hunt ever?A. FLB. PAC. NYD. TX

December answers: 1) 4, 2) eggnog, 3) angel, 4) Macy's, 5) Bethlehem, 6) Holy Night, 7) Ebenezer, 8) 8 maids a milking, 9) England, 10) Coca-Cola, 11) Cupid, 12) 364, 13) Merry Christmas, 14) Dr. Suess, 15) Germany. Winner was: Karen Mohn, Marion Grange.

Return Service Requested

Kutztown PA 19530 6/0 FERN E. KULP 11 Gilmore Road Kutztown PA 19530

BEADING PA PERMIT NO. 220 PAID NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION