

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

FEBRUARY 2021

BERKS COUNTY GRANGE WEBSITE:

berkscountygrange.org

Contact person to add items to website:

Jennifer Beamon at: jennifermarie707@gmail.com

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR COUNTY GRANGE PRESIDENT

Nettie A. Kauffman

I do hope you brought in the New Year with good health and happiness! I'm sure your New Year's Eve celebration was a bit different from years past. Let's pray and hope that this year we have those restrictions lifted that are hampering all of our Granges activities.

It still is a hard time for all our Granges to try and survive. We need to keep our spirits up and pray that the end to all this "social distancing" and gathering with certain numbers will eventually come to an end in the near future. Hopefully, the vaccine that is to be offered to all of us will prevail in getting us all back together and hugging.

I do believe hugging is one of those things we all miss when greeting family and friends, I know I do! We had a State Lecturer from 1988 – 1994, Hedy Chaffee (whom I'm sure some of you remember) who chose a theme around "Hugging." It was during her years of service that whenever a Grange activity took place on the state level, hugs were going on! This practice made us feel better. Today, this is something that we need to get back to, not only in our family life, but also in our life outside of family. This is one thing I look forward to when this COVID-19 social distancing is done and over with.

As we are progressing with this pandemic era, and trying to do fund raisers to keep our Grange going, I'm sure many of you are hoping we can get back to holding regular meetings and holding events to bring in revenue for community service projects and payment of your necessary Grange bills. (continued on page 4)

Inside this Edition:

Agriculture Report—7

Calendar of Events—3

Community Service—5

Contest Corner—8

Family Activities—6

Junior Grange News—2

Pomona Highlights—7

President's Report—1, 4

Youth & Young Marrieds—7

Special Points of Interest:

- ♦ 2021 State Session—4
- ♦ 2021 Pomona Lottery Calendars—5
- ♦ Community Night Programs—5
- ♦ Ontelaunee Grange Fundraisers—7
- ♦ Pomona Chicken BBQ—5
- ♦ Virginville Grange News—4

Berks County Junior Grange News

Upcoming Junior Events

- February Virtual Event — TBD
- April 17 - 5:45 pm - Walk-a-Thon fundraiser at Ontelaunee. Dinner (pizza) and snacks will be provided. The royalty test will also be taken this evening and a movie or games will follow after the WAT and test.
— Study Guides to be distributed by the end of February and test review will occur at the March Pomona meeting.
- May 16, 2pm—Camp Coronation, Camp Swatara

Roadside USA

Road trip themed camp May 14-16 Save the dates!

Registration, costs, and other details will be e-mailed in mid-late March.

Decision to hold camp will be end of March/beginning of April.

Anyone 5 years old at the time of camp can be a camper!

Please contact Gail with any questions

Attendance Contest

2021 Attendance Contest Rules:

In order to qualify, a junior member must enter at least one junior contest on the State level and juniors must attend 2 or more of the following events.

- ◇ February Virtual event TBD
- ◇ Walk-a-Thon Event—5:45 at Ontelaunee (April 17)
- ◇ Camp-Let the Jr. Grange Games Begin (May 14-16)
- ◇ June Pomona—TBD—Bernville (June 5)
- ◇ Knoebels (Tentative date June 17, back up June 16)
- ◇ State Camp (June 27-July 3)
- ◇ Swimming (July 10, 6-9pm)
- ◇ September Pomona -TBD—Hamburg (September 11)
- ◇ Fall Activity (September 25, 7:30pm, location TBD)
- ◇ Bowling (November 28, 1:30)

Hope to see you all at a lot of events!

Good luck to our
Graduating Juniors:

Rebecca Berger
Brayden Heckman
Sierra Merkel
Cathlene Moatz
Owen Schlegel
Avery Tworkowski

Sleepover—February
Cancelled for 2021, stay
well!

Volunteer Clearances

Gail will be reviewing the clearances on file. If you know your clearances are 5 years or older at this time, please work on getting those updated. Gail will be reaching out by beginning of April for anyone who needs to update their clearances.

2020 Attendance Winners

More information to come in
who met the revised attendance
contest criteria for 2020.

Stay well, everyone!

Next Jr. Team Meeting:

Our next team meeting is
Monday, April 5 at 7pm TBD
virtual or at Ontelaunee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February—May 2021

Feb 5 & 6 Junior Grange Sleepover—**CANCELLED**
 Feb. 14 2021 State Session Meeting @Gouglersville, 2 p.m.
 Feb. 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
 Feb. 15 PRESIDENT'S DAY
 Feb. 20 Virginville Grange Fundraiser (see Virginville Grange Fundraiser article for details)
 Feb. 22 Pre-Quarterly President's/Family Activities Meeting @Gouglersville, 7 p.m.
 March 1 Italian Hoagie Sale, Pioneer Grange (see below for details)
 March 6 County Meeting @Gouglersville, 9:30 a.m.
 March 11 Ontelaunee Grange Italian Sub and Pretzel Sandwich Sale (see Ontelaunee Grange article for details)
 March 14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
 March 14 2021 State Session Meeting @ Gouglersville, 2 p.m.
 March 16 Ontelaunee Grange Community Night, 7:30 p.m.
 March 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
 March 20 SPRING BEGINS
 March 28 PALM SUNDAY
 April 2 PA Dutch Potato Filling Sale, Pioneer Grange (see below for details)
 April 2 Potato Filling and Bacon Dressing Sale, Kutztown Grange (see below for details)
 April 4 EASTER
 April 5 Junior Team Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7:00 p.m.
 April 10 Ontelaunee Grange Drive-By Soup Sale (see Ontelaunee Grange article for details)
 April 11 2021 State Session Meeting @Gouglersville, 2 p.m.
 April 16 ECHO deadline
 April 16 Legislative Banquet—**CANCELLED**
 April 17 Junior Walk-A-Thon @Ontelaunee, 5:45 p.m.
 April 22 EARTH DAY
 April 28 Legislative/Agricultural Meeting @Ag Center, 7:15 p.m.
 May 3 COLLATE ECHO @Ontelaunee Grange, 3:15 p.m. (Bernville assists)
 May 3: Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sale, Pioneer Grange (see below for details)
 May 5 Virginville Community Night, 7:30 p.m.
 May 9 2021 State Session Meeting @Gouglersville, 2 p.m.
 May 9 MOTHER'S DAY
 May 10 County Officers & Departmental Chair Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7 p.m.

Remember—check the web-site if you are unsure if a particular event will be happening—or call the appropriate grange/leader for final verification

March 1 Pioneer Grange: \$5.00 Order deadline is Feb. 21 Pickup at the Grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

April 2 Pioneer Grange: 1.5 lbs for \$4; 2.5 lbs for \$6. Pickup at the Grange hall, 2—4 p.m. Deadline to order is March 25. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

April 2 Kutztown Grange: Pick up 3—6 p.m. Must order by March 24 Call Darlene, 610-683-7975 to order

May 3 Pioneer Grange: \$3.50 Deadline to order is April 25. Pickup at the hall from 3—5 p.m. Call Tammy to order at 610-463-7213



PRESIDENT MESSAGE (continued)

Although your Grange is doing various fund raisers, the Berks County Grange is also holding some fund raisers during this up-coming year. One is the Lottery Drawing numbers tickets, which each Subordinate Grange received in December, to sell them and help raise funds for the County Grange (contact your Subordinate Master/President). Being a Grange member is to help support not only your local Grange, but to help support the County Grange so they, too, can do their part in Community Service projects.

So as we go through this next quarter of our Grange year, let us get back to going to meetings, becoming a participant in the activities, help with Grange fundraisers (both Subordinate and County) and enjoy getting back to being with friends you gained in your Grange membership. It is time, once again, for everyone to work together.

VIRGINVILLE GRANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

In December, we held a Shoo Fly and Cookie Sale. We were thrilled at the turnout and support for this fundraiser. We sold 198 Shoo Fly pies and sold 172 pounds of chocolate chip, Snickerdoodle, and oatmeal raisin cookies. Additionally, we were able to give 15 pounds of cookies to our 50+ year members of the Grange. The Shoo Fly and Cookie sale was benefiting Joyce Dietrich a member of the grange with ongoing medical concerns. Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies!

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 at the holiday season.

We will be having a BBQ dinner on Sunday, June 6th, 2021. It will be held at the Leesport Farmers Market. More information will be coming in regards to the meal, cost, and hours we will be there for pick up. Keep an eye out in future newsletters.

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

2021 State Session

We are encouraging every Grange to send at least 1 representative to all our meetings at the Goughersville Grange, when possible. We actually did a virtual meeting in January. We meet the 2nd Sunday of the month thru 2021, they are scheduled 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, and 10/10. We might have to change some meetings here and there and I will try to keep everyone informed concerning changes.

If you would like to be involved to make 2021 a GREAT session! Please contact Michael Adams at 610-562-5933 or mjadams141@gmail.com.

GRANGERS CONTRIBUTION TO 2021 PA STATE SESSION

If anyone would like to make a personal donation of any amount (\$5-\$250), please send whatever you decide. The levels listed below is a way for anyone that contributes larger amounts.

GOLD LEVEL – (\$1,000)

For a \$1,000.00 contribution, you will receive;

- 3 nights lodging for two, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights
- 2 tickets for breakfast for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning

SILVER LEVEL – (\$500.00)

For a \$500.00 contribution, you will receive:

- 2 tickets for breakfast for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning
- 2 tickets for the Youth Luncheon
- 2 tickets for the All Granger Banquet

BRONZE LEVEL – (\$250.00)

For a \$250.00 contribution, you will receive;

- 2 tickets for breakfast for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning

****Please send these contributions to Terry Murray, 2269 Edenton Road, Cochranville, PA 19330**

COMMUNITY SERVICE, by Carlene Kleckner

Hi everybody. Hope you all are staying safe and healthy with all that is happening in the world.

For the March meeting, we are going to do a food drive for Helping Harvest. If we don't have meeting, please bring the items to the Fleetwood Grange that same day (March 6, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon). Please make sure the boxed items or the non-perishables items you bring are not expired. Every item you bring will be greatly appreciated by local residents in need!



COMMUNITY NIGHT PROGRAMS 2020

Mar. 16—Ontelaunee Grange, 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 1—Kutztown Grange, 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 15—Pioneer Grange, 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 22—Fleetwood Grange
6:30 p.m.

May 5—Virginville Grange, 7:30 p.m.

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

2021 Pomona Lottery Calendars

We are selling 500 lottery calendars with 2 numbers on for the months of March and April for 2021. They will cost \$10 and will pay out \$20 Monday thru Friday, \$25 Saturday and Sunday, and \$100 on 3/17 St. Patrick's Day and 4/4 on Easter.

This is not the responsibility of the Presidents to sell each individual Granges Lottery tickets. Members, please help to sell these, take 5 or 10 from you president and either buy or sell them. It's a lot tougher this year. Please support this Pomona fundraiser. They need to be sold by the end of February, preferably sooner.

Pomona Chicken BBQ

The Pomona Grange is planning to do a Chicken BBQ on Labor Day Sunday, September 5, 2021 at the Leesport Market. We don't have all the details yet, concerning pricing or menu, but we will be providing more details at the June Pomona meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Michael Adams, Nettie Kauffman, Fern Kulp, or Henry Seidel.

VIRGINVILLE GRANGE FUNDRAISER

Virginville Grange's Jumbo Country Meatballs in Marinara Sauce, Mac n' Cheese/Ham, and Apple & Cherry Crisp Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2021, from noon to 2 p.m. (Snow date is Feb. 21st from noon till 2 p.m.)

You must pre-order by Saturday, Feb. 13th by calling Kathy at 610-334-5319 or Jenn at 610-823-4813.

All items will be in convenient reheatable containers.

12 Jumbo Meatballs in Marina Sauce—\$12.00
9" Deep Pan of Mac n' Cheese/Ham—\$10.00
Apple or Cherry Crisp—\$2.00



FAMILY ACTIVITIES by Jane Reppert

While we are still dealing with the Pandemic and are not going out too much, why not set down, relax, and work on some of the Family Activities contests for 2021. If you don't have the contests and rule for 2021, You can contact your Subordinate Grange Family Activities chairperson or go on the PA State Grange website under Documents-2021-2020 Guide To Contest & Programs or you can contact me.

Some of the new contests for the 2021 year are String Art, Jewelry, and Woodburning. The new baking contests for 2021 will be: Banana Nut Bread, Cake Donuts, and Turtles.

I would like to have entries from each Subordinate Grange this year. I know there are many members with a lot of talents. Also, there are many different contests that you can entries. So why not try one or two of them. There is something for everyone: men, women & Junior members.

The temporary judging for the Pomona 2021 contests is:

Baking Contest – August 30, 2021, at the Pre-Pomona meeting

Needlework & other Family Activities contest – September 11, 2021, at the Pomona Meeting

The only Contest that was sent to State Grange in 2020 was the “Quilt Blocks”. That was because they use the blocks to make the quilt for the State Grange Family Activities raffle. At the State Grange level, they did judge the blocks. Berks County received two places: 2nd place went to Jane Reppert and 3rd place went to Dianne Geschwindt (both from Virginville Grange).

Here are a few tips to improve your health:

1. Deep Breathing: Deep breathing is a simple way to improve your health without spending any money. When we are tense or stressed, we often breathe very shallow. Try taking deep breaths, this is a great way to help your body to relax and calm our nervous systems. This is sometimes more difficult than it sounds though, so focusing on slow, steady, deep breaths will be helpful.

2. Sleep: Your might feel you need to be doing something active to achieve better health, rather than stopping to rest. Sleep is the body's time to focus on repair and recharging. When it comes to improving our health, sleep is huge but easy to overlook. We know how important adequate sleep is, but we often stay up later than we should.

3. Washing Hands: Sing “Happy Birthday” twice while you scrub your hands. That's how long it takes to wash away the germs that can cause colds and flu.

Do you color hard boiled eggs for Easter? Do you know how old the eggs in your refrigerator are? Here is a way to tell: Place the egg in a pan of cold water, if it lies on its side, it is fresh – if it tilts on an angle, its approximately 3-4 days old – if it stands upright, it is probably about 10 days – if it floats on the top, it is old and should not be used.

If you color eggs and want to do a Natural Dye, here are the items to use for the various colors:

<u>Lavender</u>	Purple grape juice
<u>Brown</u>	Strong coffee
<u>Green</u>	Spinach leaves - boiled
<u>Orange</u>	Yellow onion skins - Boiled
<u>Yellow</u>	Ground turmeric – boiled
<u>Pink</u>	Beets or cranberry juice
<u>Red</u>	Lots of red onion skins - boiled
<u>Blue</u>	Canned blueberries or red cabbage leaves
<u>Light Yellow</u>	Orange or lemon peels, carrot tops, celery seed or ground cumin



Instructions: Put the eggs in a single layer in a pan and pour water in until the eggs are covered. Then add a teaspoon of vinegar. Add the natural dye items to eggs, bring water to a boil then reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Remove eggs with a slotted spoon and put them in a glass bowl. Use caution, the eggs will be very hot. Refrigerate. (If you would like a deeper color, cool entire contents of natural dye and eggs in refrigerator overnight.)

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 had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also, I hope everyone is still safe and healthy and that you and your family will remain healthy.

ONTELAUNEE GRANGE FUNDRAISERS

SANDWICH SALE

Ontelaunee Grange to hold Italian Sub Sandwich and Pretzel Sandwich sale for Thursday, March 11.

Twelve-inch Sub sandwiches will be available in Italian, Ham or Turkey and can be ordered with onions, no onions or with onions & peppers.

There will also be PRETZEL sandwiches available as follows: Italian, Ham & Cheese, Ham & Swiss, Turkey & Cheese, Roast Beef & Cheese and Sweet Lebanon Bologna & Cheese.

Cost of the 12-inch Italian Sub Sandwiches is \$6.00 and for any of the Pretzel Sandwiches is \$5.00.

Please contact Mikayla Davis at 484-388-0348 or ontelauneegrange@gmail.com

DEADLINE for ordering is March 4.

DRIVE-BY SOUP SALE

Another project that Ontelaunee Grange will be doing is a drive-by soup sale to be held on Saturday, April 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Quarts of the following will be available for purchase: Beef Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, Ham & Bean, Chili and Ham & String Beans (w/potatoes).

Cost for any of the items is \$9.00/quart.

Contact one of the following to place your order: Edna Blatt at 610-781-4920, Nettie Kauffman at 610-926-5389 and Lorrie Wesner at 610-926-3391. Please leave a message if no one answers the phone!

DEADLINE for ordering is April 2.



AGRICULTURE REPORT by Doug Sattazahn

We will soon be at one year of COVID-19 upending our everyday lives. Agriculture has felt varying effects through the pandemic with a host of government relief programs responding to provide aid. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) came first to provide a loan to businesses to help keep employees on the payroll. This program offered loan forgiveness and has been renewed several times to cover all the businesses that wanted to sign up. There has even been a second round for additional funding to companies that signed up the first round. Then the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) was approved to pay farmers directly for losses due to market disruptions. Like the PPP, there was also a second round of CFAP payments, and will be another in the future.

The challenges of the past year could not be predicted, but government aid was plentiful to make up the loss of farm income. Commodity prices have rebounded nicely as we move into 2021. Hopefully the pandemic will soon be in the rear-view mirror and the free market can resume normally!

POMONA GRANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Since there was no December Pomona meeting, the following items were taken care of by the President and the Executive Committee:

- 1) It was approved to renew our web-site invoice Jennifer received.
- 2) The Officer Bond for officers and members handling funds for the Pomona (coverage \$100,000) was approved at a cost of \$189. The amount was dropped from the \$250,000.00 that was previously held.
- 3) Approved payment of invoice regarding the typesetting and payment of the Pomona 2021 calendars.
- 4) The February 2021 ECHO newsletter will be mailed (and placed on the website)

YOUTH REPORT by Erica Berger, 610-780-0861

The Youth/Young Adults will be running the June Pomona meeting this year. When it gets closer to June, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Facebook page to pick which office people want. Feel free to contact me about any activities you want the Youth/Young Adults to do once we are able to interact.



CONTEST CORNER

NAME _____ **GRANGE** _____

Complete and bring along to the March Pomona meeting. Must be present to win.

Guess the name of the Sports Team (baseball, basketball, football and hockey) For example: Magicians in the NBA; answer Wizards (Washington)

Battle veterans in the NBA? _____

Ranch hands in the NFL? _____

Legislators in the NHL? _____

Park officials of MLB? _____

National bird in the NFL? _____

Baby bears of MLB? _____

Heavenly figures of MLB? _____

Irishmen in the NBA? _____

Return Service Requested

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43
c/o FERN E. KULP
11 Gilmore Road
Kutztown PA 19530

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 220
READING PA