

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

MAY 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andrew Kieffer

I hope this newsletter finds all our members in at least decent spirits. We all know that these are trying times and many sacrifices are being made. As you noticed, this edition of the Echo is only available online. We made this decision primarily because it requires a group to gather and attach mailing labels and these gatherings are currently banned. Conditions look like they are starting to get better and we should be back to normal for the next Echo.

As the stay at home continues we will be making tough decisions regarding upcoming events. I don't expect to be able to gather for the officer meeting and pre-quarterly this month. These meetings may be held in an online meeting room. Those who would be involved will be informed if we try to go this route. The regular meeting in June is also in question as the first phase of reopening limits groups to 25 people. A decision on this will be made closer to the date and we try to keep all informed.

I look forward to our schedule getting back on track and seeing my fellow grangers again. I encourage all to continue following the guidelines set forth by those in charge and stay hopeful that we will be past this sooner than later. See you then.

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GRANGE WEBSITE:

berkscountygrange.org

IF YOU WANT INFORMATION POSTED ON THE WEBSITE:

Contact Jennifer Beamon at

jennifermarie707@gmail.com

THE MAY 2020 ECHO NEWSLETTER IS NOT BEING MAILED.

THEREFORE, PLEASE FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER TO OTHER GRANGERS IF YOU HAVE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS OR TEXT THEM TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER. LET OTHER GRANGERS KNOW TO KEEP CHECKING THE WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS, POSTPONEMENTS, ETC.

SPECIAL INTEREST:

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Berks County Junior Grange News

County Camp

Camp has been postponed. Once there is clarity about the future, we will attempt to either plan a weekend or day camp.

Thanks to all that supported the Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser to help make camp possible for our Juniors!

Applebees Fundraiser

A big thank you to everyone that sold tickets, came out to help, or came out to eat! We had about 60 tickets turned in, sold about 80 tickets,

Jr. Team Meeting

Our Next team meeting is July 6 7pm with a tentative location at Ontelaunee Grange. Please feel free to join our meetings. If there are still restrictions with meeting in person, the meeting will be held via Zoom.

Upcoming Announcements

There will be NO junior activity at the June Pomona meeting.

We will continue to monitor the ability to have our Knoebels day. The pavilion is booked for June 10. Announcements will be made at Pomona (if we have a meeting) and on Facebook and the Berks County Website.

2020 Junior Attendance Contest

In order to qualify, a junior member must participate in the Walk-a-Thon and/or Applebees Fundraiser, enter at least one junior contest on the State level. Beyond that, the juniors must attend 4 or more of the following events... Contest rules may flex depending on how many activities are held.

- ◇ March Pomona
- ◇ Applebees Fundraiser (helped with)
- ◇ County Camp ???
- ◇ Knoebels (June 10)
- ◇ State Camp (June 28 - July 4)
- ◇ Swimming (July 11, 6-9pm)
- ◇ September Pomona
- ◇ Fall Activity (September 19 OR 20 activity TBD)
- ◇ Bowling (**November 29** 1:30)

Hope to see you all at a lot of events!

State Camp News!

Let's keep your fingers crossed that we will still have state camp! State camp is June 28th through July 4th. There are many juniors, youth, and adults that attend from Berks County. Contact Gail if you would like to be on a carpool list.

Walk-a-Thon

Walk-a-Thon is postponed indefinitely. If there comes a time when it is safe, we may look to reschedule.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY—JULY 2020

REMEMBER, ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK FOR
CANCELLATIONS OR DATE CHANGES.

May 2 Regional Conference @Kutztown Grange—
POSTPONED
May 10 MOTHER'S DAY
May 11 County Officers & Departmental Chair Meeting
ON LINE ZOOM MEETING
May 15-17 Berks County Junior Camp—POSTPONED
May 16 ARMED FORCES DAY
May 18 Pre-Quarterly Meeting @Fleetwood, 7 p.m.
May 25 MEMORIAL DAY
May 28 Pomona Grange Trip participants need to reply to
Nettie by this date (see article for further details)
June 1 Pioneer Grange Ham & Cheese/Turkey & Cheese
Sandwich Sale, \$3.50. Order deadline is May 24.
Pickup at the Grange Hall from 3—5 p.m. Call
Tammy to order, 610-463-7213
June 6 County Meeting @Fleetwood, 9:30 a.m.
June 14 FLAG DAY
June 20 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
June 21 FATHER'S DAY
June 26-28 PA State Grange Youth Camp, Camp Sylvan
Hills, Howard, PA
June 27—July 5 Kutztown Folk Festival
June 28—July 4 PA State Grange Junior Camp, Camp
Sylvan Hills, Howard, PA
July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
July 10 ECHO deadline
July 11 County Swim Party
July 16-19 Grange Family Festival, Centre County
Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, PA
July 27 Collate ECHO, Ontelaunee Grange, 3:15 p.m.
(Pioneer Grange assists)
August 3 Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale, \$5. Order
deadline is July 26. Pickup at the Grange hall
from 3-5 p.m. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

AGRICULTURAL REPORT by Doug Sattazahn

No segment of agriculture has been untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic. Supply chain disruptions have led to wild variations in supply and demand of milk, meat and eggs. Apparent shortages at stores do not correspond with farmers having to dump milk or get rid of chickens with no market, leading to frustration from farmer to consumer and everywhere in between.

The northeast dairy industry in particular is seeing lower overall demand for milk products, causing milk companies to place restrictions on the supply from farmers. For example, the Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) cooperative will use March milk production as a baseline and only pay producers full price for 85% of that level going forward. Milk production over that threshold will be priced at a salvage price of around \$7.00 per hundredweight. Farmers will be looking to reduce their output or find other uses for milk on the farm to stay under this 85% level. This is coupled with milk prices that have already decreased significantly since before the pandemic.

Personally, as a Clover Farms producer, our farm had to dump 5,000 gallons of milk on April 1st. Hopefully this will be a one-time incident as we have been told that Clover's markets are still in relatively good shape.

There is speculation that USDA money will be used to pay for dumped milk, but it remains to be seen when and at what level this will be. If you have questions or comments regarding the dairy situation you can reach me by email at dougsattazahn@gmail.com.

CANCELLATIONS

...The June 21 All-Granger Picnic has been cancelled for this year.
We will try again for next year.

...County camp has been postponed.

...Walk-A-thon is postponed indefinitely.

....The May 31 Pomona Go-To-Church service was cancelled by the church.

...The Virginville Grange Mother's Day Dinner has been cancelled

DID YOU KNOW?

...The Ontelaunee Junior Grangers donated 70 tulips from Penny Hill Farms to the residents and staff at the Berks Leisure Living Center for Easter. The juniors made Easter cards for the residents and Thank You cards for the staff.

...The upcoming ECHO newsletters will NOT have the yellow headline, the yellow page, or colored pictures. Due to printer asking for additional costs for these items, it was voted at the March Pomona to have all pages in white and no colored pictures.

...It was voted at the March Pomona that Pomona will no longer have Consignment Sales, starting with 2020.

VIRGINVILLE GRANGE NEWS

The Virginville Grange Open House/Community Night program scheduled for May 6 has been tentatively postponed until September 16, 2020, starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Virginville Grange will be serving breakfast at the Kutztown Fair, August 10-15, from 7 a.m. till 10:30 a.m. You can eat there or take out. There is no admission charge to enter the fairgrounds during the time breakfast is being served.

The Mother's Day dinner, May 10, has been cancelled. Hope to see you next year.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES by Jane Reppert, 610-562-2647

I hope everyone is well and safe during this trying time from the Corona Virus pandemic. Many stores were out of disinfectant and cleaning products. Here are a few hints to make your own (taken from the Good Housekeeping magazines and Berks County Extension newsletters):

Disinfectant: dilute ½ cup Cider Vinegar in 1 cup Water

(or) Mix ¼ cup Borax in ½ gallon hot water

(or) Combine equal parts alcohol (at least 60%) concentration and water in a spray bottle.

Don't wipe but let the solution evaporate.

All purpose Cleaners: Mix 1 tsp. With 1 quart of warm water. Add a splash of lemon juice or vinegar to cut grease.

(or) Mix 2 tsp. Borax and 1 tsp. soap in 1 qt. of water. Can be stored in a spray bottle.

(or) Mix 4 Tbsp. Baking Soda and 1 qt. warm water. Pour solution on a clean sponge and wipe.

I hope during this time we are to stay at home, you were working on some special projects around the house or on your entries for the Family Activities Contest. If you still need complete contests and rules, you can contact your Subordinate Grange Family Activities chairperson or go on the PA State Grange website under Documents-2020-2021 Guide to Contest & Programs or you can contact me.

There is another contest added this year. They split Class 16: Cross Stitch into two classes:

Class 16: Counted Cross Stitch

Class 16A: Cross Stitch

Also, two other items to clarify on the contest sheet.

1st: Quilt Blocks: the white material can be White Small print (no big print) or solid white

2nd: Table Centerpieces: The Max size is 8" in any direction, (length, width, or height).

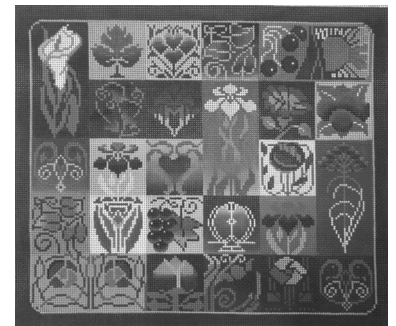
If you have any questions, please contact me.

Just a reminder of the judging dates for Pomona 2020 contests is:

Baking Contest – August 31, 2020, at the Pre-Pomona meeting at Pioneer Grange

Needlework & Family Activities contest – September 12, 2020, at Pioneer Grange

I would like to thank everyone who donated goods at our March Pomona meeting for the local food pantry. There was a total of 281 items donated, plus monetary donations. Also, congratulations to the 4 winners of the Redner's gift certificates from the Pomona Family Activities.



The State Grange Family Activities committee has a raffle drawing every year for a quilt made from the quilt blocks contest entries from a previous year and many other prizes. Tickets are \$1.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please see your Subordinate Grange chairperson or attend Pomona or contact me.

I hope everyone will stay healthy and enjoy spending family time during our stay at home time.

POMONA GRANGE HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The March 7, 2020, Pomona meeting was held at Virginville Grange, with the Youth filling the officer's chairs.
- ◆ It was announced that the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conference was cancelled
- ◆ Virginville, Fleetwood and Marion Granges are celebrating their 100th Anniversaries.
- ◆ Donated \$800 to the Kutztown Fair
- ◆ Donated \$1,000 to the Berks County Fair
- ◆ M & M guessing game—Doris Evans, the winner
- ◆ Today's Attendance: 32 Brothers, 40 Sisters, 8 Juniors, 2 Mini-Juniors Total—82
- ◆ Family Festival activities will include a volleyball tournament and a road rally challenge open to all ages
- ◆ Introduced the PA Youth Ambassador, Josh Mengel, Fleetwood Grange, and PA State Outstanding Young Patrons, Derek Snyder and Braden Gourley
- ◆ Andrew Kieffer reported that milk can now say "3% fat" on the whole milk labels
- ◆ 281 food items were collected to donate to the food bank. Four names were drawn for \$25 gift cards to Redner's: Hamburg Grange, Karen Mohn, Carlene Kleckner and Karen Mohn
- ◆ June Pomona meeting collection: Berks County Animal Rescue League
- ◆ Winner of the ECHO contest corner was Sharon Schlegel, Fleetwood Grange
- ◆ Heim Fest will be held September 12
- ◆ Consignment Sale and fundraiser meeting was held on March 2. A bingo, a dance, and a wine festival were a few suggestions that were discussed at the meeting. Also discussed the possibility of a Kauffman's Chicken Bar-B-Que that is being given up by another group this year.
- ◆ Motion to uphold the recommendation of the sale committee to not hold a consignment sale this year: paper ballot, 67 ballots were cast: 47 no sale, 19 yes sale, 1 blank vote. Motion to not hold the consignment sale in 2020 carried.
- ◆ Berks County Fair—Winefest on June 27
- ◆ Session 2021: Longwood Gardens bus trip is being planned for Thursday prior to State Session. Looking for more volunteers from our region to help in various areas.
- ◆ As of February 29, 2020, the membership in the county stands at 1,037
- ◆ Approved \$20 ad in the Fleetwood Grange 100th Anniversary booklet.
- ◆ Approved donation of \$150 to the Dairy Princess Pageant.
- ◆ Henry Seidel and Fern Kulp will look into the possibility of taking over the Chicken Bar-B-Que in August
- ◆ Therapy Dogs, Service Dogs, and Emotional Support Dogs resolution: approved
- ◆ Game Commission Land resolution: approved
- ◆ Literary Program: Josh Mengel, Derek Snyder and Braden Gourley played the Newly Wed game with some coupes from the audience. Steve & Karen Mohn were the winners. (Definitely a new take on the game—VERY, VERY ENJOYABLE!!)
- ◆ Door prizes were distributed
- ◆ Suggestion of officers for 2020 were held. See separate article!



MARCH 2020 POMONA YOUTH OFFICERS

President: Josh Mengel, Fleetwood

Vice President: Braden Gourley, Hookstown (Beaver Co.)

Program Coordinator: Owen Stemko, Virginville

Steward: Peter Rohrbach, Fleetwood

Ass't Steward: Robert Kleckner, III, Fleetwood

Lady Ass't Steward: Hannah Leibensperger, Pioneer

Chaplain: Isaac Mengel, Fleetwood

Treasurer: Jake Mengel, Fleetwood

Secretary: Jen Beamon, Hamburg

Gatekeeper: Derek Snyder, Valley (York-Adams Co.)

Ceres: Autumn Tworkoski, Hamburg

Pomona: Avery Tworkoski, Ontelaunee Jr.

Flora: Erica Berger, Virginville

PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S DEPARTMENT

By Nettie A. Kauffman

This has been a very interesting past quarter for all of us! I do hope everyone "Stayed Home and Stayed Safe."

So what did you do to pass the time away during the quarantine? I do hope some of you checked the PA State Grange web-site and worked on some of the Program Coordinator contests. If you haven't, then I suggest you do check and complete a project (www.pagrang.org). You will have to check the 2020-2021 Guide to Contest & Programs. I look forward to having entries from the Granges at the Annual State Session in October from members in Berks County. The only contest that needs elimination in the Lecturer's Department is the Photography Contest. If you worked on a project from one of the various department contests, bring it along to show your craftiness or artistic talents you have; and if you did some other special project for the community, bring it along to show the members how you kept occupied during the quarantine.

The Regional Conference that was slated for May 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Kutztown Grange for ALL Grange leaders and members has been postponed till a later date. This information will be forthcoming in the future and I do hope we will have our leaders and members from Berks County Granges attend.

2020 POMONA GRANGE TRIP

Cruise to New England and Canada

It has been an interesting back and forth with White Star Tours on our cruise slated for September 17-26, 2020!

We had a total of 32 interested in this cruise and with the entire coronavirus/COVID-19 situation going on, some individuals have backed out for the cruise. White Star has been in contact with us regarding what is happening, not only with our cruise, but with other bus trips and tours they had scheduled during this period. The latest information from White Star is they have recommended that all travel with their company remains postponed or canceled until June 15, 2020. They are providing continuous updates on a weekly basis; they strongly recommend that if trips are booked from July through the rest of the year, to hold tight.

A memo went out to all participants with directions as to what each individual wants to do and they must let Nettie Kauffman know by May 28. If too many decide to cancel out, the committee will make a decision on the cruise.

Read the next ECHO to learn what will transpire with our cruise for September. All participants that have signed up will be kept informed of the situation.

POMONA LOTTERY CALENDAR

I want to Thank everyone that sold and bought lottery calendars for the Pomona Grange fundraiser. Once again, **Fern Kulp has been the top seller 4 years in a row, she personally sold 130**, that's more than any Grange sold. All 500 were sold and by the time you receive your copy of the ECHO, the winners were paid for the months of March and April. We will have a profit report at the June Pomona meeting.

STATE SESSION 2021 by Michael Adams

I want to thank the Granges within Berks County that have donated to the 2021 state session. If you haven't donated yet, please let Henry Seidel or Michael Adams know what you plan to do, so that we can figure out how we will make our commitment.

The meeting that was scheduled for April 25 at the Valley Forge Convention Center was cancelled! Once restrictions are lifted and the hotel is open, hopefully Terry Murray can set up a meeting that will suit for anyone that is interested. We feel we would like to meet with the hotel to discuss a few things, prior to the next 2021 State Session meeting.

The 2021 committee will start meeting again in September with the 2nd Sunday of the month thru 2021, except October and December 2020 at the Gouglersville Grange. Once we get things rolling, we can probably skip some meetings here and there or change dates as needed.

APPRECIATION BANQUET

A thank you to all who participated in the 2019 Attendance Contest for Pomona Grange. A total of 27 individuals handed in their attendance cards and winners were chosen at the March 2020 Appreciation Banquet held at Virginville Grange after the regular county meeting. The winners are:

GOLD -- \$40 gift card to Olive Garden: Tammy Schaeffer - Pioneer Grange, Irvin Kauffman - Ontelaunee Grange and Marie Schaeffer - Virginville Grange

SILVER -- \$20 gift card to Red Lobster: Anna Heffner - Hamburg Grange, Erica Berger - Virginville Grange and Denise Clare - Hamburg Grange.

BRONZE -- \$10 gift card to Kauffman's Chicken Bar-B-Que: Fern Sonon - Virginville Grange, Nettie Kauffman - Ontelaunee Grange and Henry Seidel - Virginville Grange.

JUNIOR ATTENDANCE WINNERS—\$5 Chick-Fil-A Gift Card

Heidi Eisenhower, Logan Eisenhower, Mackenzie Gougler, Ava Jenkins, Sarah Riegel, Travis Riegel, Ellie Schroeder, Jacob Schroeder, Emma Seidel, Alexis Servin, Connor Servin, Cadence Tempel, and Grace Tempel

SUGGESTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020-2022

President: Denise Clare

Vice President: Robert Kleckner, III

Program Coordinator: Deanna Schrawder

Steward: Open

Ass't Steward: Richard Kieffer

Lady Ass't Steward: Linda Stewart

Chaplain: Mikayla Davis

Treasurer: Jake Mengel

Secretary: Jen Beamon

Gatekeeper: Robert Beamon

Pomona: Lindsay Schroeder

Ceres: Autumn Tworkoski

Flora: Erica Berger

Ex. Comm: Andrew Kieffer

Fin. Comm: Henry Seidel