

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

NOVEMBER 2017

POMONA LOTTERY CALENDAR

It was discussed and decided at the September Pomona meeting that we should do another Pomona Lottery Calendar as a fundraiser, since the Pomona Sale profits will be down. However, the Appreciation Banquet will be free to everyone that helped with the Pomona Sale.

We will be selling 500 lottery calendars with 2 numbers on each and they will be sealed. It will be done during the months of March and April for 2018. They will cost \$10 and will pay out \$20 Monday through Friday, \$25 Saturday and Sunday, and \$100 on St. Patrick's Day (3/17) and Easter (4/1).

They should be ready for distribution at the Pre-Pomona meeting November 20 at Ontelaunee. If you would like any to sell on your own and you don't want to wait until November 20, please feel free to contact Michael Adams at 610-562-5933. I am asking everyone to participate by buying and/or selling the calendars. They will make a great gift for birthdays, Christmas, etc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Andrew Kieffer

As I start my second year as President of Berks County Grange, I'd like to reflect on how it has been so far. I must agree with what I have heard from my predecessors. The hardest part isn't running the meeting, it is everything else in between. The hardest for me is writing these articles. I never know what to write about; and, therefore, turn them in at the deadline, though never late, yet.

I thought by now I would have found a FA Chairperson. If you are interested, please contact me or Denise Clare. She is more than willing to assist anyone willing to take on this important position.

I was hoping to visit a meeting of every Subordinate Grange in the County, but only made it to Hamburg thus far. So I apologize to all the others for my failure in this endeavor. I am asked to represent the organization in several other groups or events throughout the year, but I hope to do better in getting to the County Granges this coming year.

It is a week out from State Session as I write this. I am hoping it is successful and have faith in my fellow grangers that we will act in charity with each other and keep fidelity with the Grange. Have a wonderful and joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

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Berks County Junior Grange News

Hoss's

*** December 10***

If you need a card, let Jenn Berger know and she will get it to you or if you prefer e-mail, please let Gail know and we will send it your way.

December Pomona

The juniors will be having a birthday party to celebrate the 150th birthday of Grange. Please **RSVP to Gail by December 2** if your junior(s) will be in attendance. We will be playing birthday games. Please bring a \$5 gift to exchange during games.

Thank you to all of the juniors and parents that assisted at the sale in August. The juniors made a \$461.71 profit from ice cream and soda sales.

Upcoming Dates:

November 26 – Bowling at Heisters Lanes – **1:30pm**
December 9– Pomona, birthday theme
February 2&3 – Sleepover at Fleetwood Grange

2018 Camp Planning Meeting

Planning meeting date is being set up. Please let Gail know what days would work for you.

****Anyone of helper age or older are invited to attend even if unable to join us that weekend!****

Please let me know if you will be in attendance,
g_switzer09@hotmail.com

Walk a Thon

It's that time of year again! Please be on the look out to sponsor juniors in the Walk a Thon! This is a great way to help the juniors defray costs of attending camp!

Thank you for your continued support!

POMONA HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights from the September 9, 2017, Pomona meeting at Marion Grange. Remember, it is ALWAYS better to be in attendance to hear the news first hand and to help make decisions of the Grange.

- ◆ Donated \$250 to the Jeffrey McCartney appeal—attacked by a pit bull and medical bills need to be paid
- ◆ Donated \$100 to the East Franklin Grange, flash flooding, appeal
- ◆ Donated \$50 to the State Grange History Committee appeal
- ◆ Attendance: 12 brothers, 23 sisters, 3 juniors, 1 mini-junior for a total of 39
- ◆ Donated \$200 to Wernersville State Hospital and Berks Heim. \$200 will also be donated to Hamburg Center if there is still a need (that they are still open and have occupants)
- ◆ A lottery calendar fundraiser will again be held for March and April 2018. Michael Adams will get the tickets made.
- ◆ Free tickets will be given to Consignment helpers, auctioneers and first place State Grange winners for the January 20 Appreciation Banquet—to be held at Fleetwood Grange
- ◆ Membership as of September 1, 2017 is: 1, 127
- ◆ Derek Schroeder was installed as the new Executive Committee member
- ◆ Steve Mohn bought a pig on behalf of Pomona Grange at the 4-H Round Up. He was authorized to be our rep again next year with a maximum of \$500 to spend on an animal.
- ◆ Andrew Kieffer and Derek Schroeder will be the Pomona Grange representatives to State Session
- ◆ Motion was approved to start Pomona meetings at 9:30 a.m. beginning in 2018
- ◆ Approved resolution to oppose HB 107 of 2017 (concerning the natural gas industry)
- ◆ Approved resolution concerning the PA Lieutenant Governor's Mansion (stop funding it with tax monies)
- ◆ Approved resolution to discontinue PA Giving Tax Money to Host Political Conventions
- ◆ Approved resolution concerning change of schedule of the PA State Grange Session
- ◆ Approved resolution concerning Veteran Benefits and Services (to better inform vets of their benefits, etc.)
- ◆ Door prizes were awarded
- ◆ Program was a scavenger hunt of grange memmabilia (as advertised in the last ECHO) - Jim Werner and Fern Sonon had the most items

DID YOU KNOW -

...Ontelaunee Grange will be changing their meeting schedule beginning in January 2018. The meetings will be held once a month and will be on the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month.

...The bridge in Leesport closed effective October 30, 2017. Please follow detour signs to get to Ontelaunee Grange—best way is by way of Cross Keys road (at the Boy Scout Office) or you need to turn in at Dauberville (off Route 61) and follow the detour signs.

...The Virginville Grange would like to THANK ALL who came to our breakfasts during the Kutztown Fair (August 14—19). We served 1,059 breakfasts during those six mornings.

...2018 Farm Family Appreciation Celebration will be held Saturday, March 17 at the Hamburg Field House. Reservation form will be available in the February 2018 ECHO. Reserve the date!

BERKS HEIM by Doris Evans

The annual Heim Fest was a huge success. Following is a letter to our Grange members from the Director of Volunteers dated September 28, 2017:

Dear Members of Pomona Grange:

On behalf of Berks Heim, I want to thank you for your participation in the 2017 Heim Fest. Our residents look forward to Heim Fest every year. It is a very special day and, as you know, a very busy day.

We could never provide such a special day if it weren't for volunteers like you! Every year I am amazed that this busy day goes so well and that volunteers, giving so graciously of their time and talent, are the key to Heim Fest's success.

This year was a success not only for the enjoyment provided to our residents and their families, but also from a fundraising standpoint. Thank you for your continued support of Berks Heim and our residents.

Sincerely, Ann M. Gilmer

I, too, want to thank the Granges who provided shoefly pies. They were truly appreciated and delicious. The residents look forward to this treat.

Looking ahead, volunteers will be needed on December 8th for the annual Santa's Corner. This activity begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. The large group Christmas party for "A" building residents is on December 12 and "B" building's party is on December 13. Assistance on any of these December dates would be appreciated. Ms. Gilmer was VERY HAPPY with the generous donation of \$200 by Pomona Grange toward these events. THANK YOU.

Sunday transport services for November and December are: November 5—Marion; November 12—Pioneer; November 19—Ontelaunee Juniors. November 26th is OPEN.

December 3—Marion; December 10—Bernville; December 17 is OPEN. No transport service is expected for services on December 24 or 31, however any help would again be greatly appreciated.

TRIP INFORMATION

The 2017 Grange trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster County is occurring on Saturday, November 11. Although we did not achieve getting a full bus, we did secure a smaller bus for our transportation. A total of 27 adults and 2 children will be making the trek to see the Sight and Sound show of "The Miracle of Christmas".

Our departure from Ontelaunee Grange is scheduled for 10:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Smorgasbord dinner is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. and the show will be from 3:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. We will depart immediately after the show and return back to Ontelaunee Grange around 7:00 p.m.

As to where the group might be going in 2018, that is still up in the air at this time. More information to come forth in the near future since this article was needed by a deadline date.

The committee works hard to provide a trip worthy for its members, but we do need the support of you to help make any trip a success.

Tour Committee: Ray Davis, Doris Evans, Irvin & Nettie Kauffman,
Richard & Marie Schaeffer



BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE 2018 ATTENDANCE CONTEST

1. This contest is based on the Olympic Medal format. You can obtain gold, silver, or bronze medal status depending on your participation.
2. The contest is for the calendar year 2018.
3. We encourage attendance at all Pomona events. The events to qualify for this year's contest are:

4 Pomona meetings (present entire meeting)

March 3 at 9:30 a.m.—Fleetwood Grange

June 2 at 9:30 a.m.—Pioneer Grange

September 8 at 9:30 a.m.—Kutztown Grange

December 8 at 9:30 a.m.—Gouglersville Grange

Legislative Banquet—April 6 at Fleetwood Grange—6:45 p.m.

Go-To-Church Sunday – April 8 at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church—10:30 a.m.

Tri-County Visitation – April 28 at Lewistown Grange in Schuylkill County—7:30 p.m.

Junior Grange Camp Coronation – May 20 at Camp Swatara, Bethel—2:00 p.m.

All Granger Picnic – June 17 at Edenberg Park, Hamburg—12:30 p.m.; 1:00 meal time; no evening meal

Swim Party – July 14 at Shoemakersville Pool— 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.

4. The prizes are as follows:

Gold Medal level – attend 7 or more events

3 -- \$40 gift certificates to Red Lobster

Silver Medal level – attend 5 or more events

3 -- \$20 gift certificates to Olive Garden

Bronze Medal level – attend 4 or more events

3 -- \$10 gift certificates to Kauffman's Chicken Bar-B-Que Restaurant

5. All the dates for the events are on the Pomona calendar and will be printed in the ECHO newsletter.
6. All members wishing to participate will be provided a card to be punched at each of the events they attend. We are not responsible for lost cards.
7. All qualified contestants will be placed in respective medal levels and winners will be chosen at the 2019 Recognition & Appreciation Banquet. (If banquet is canceled due to snow storm, they will be chosen at the March Pomona meeting.)
8. It is the responsibility of each individual to have their card punched at the activity/event/meeting.
9. Cards will be collected at the December Pomona meeting, but will be accepted the night of the Recognition & Appreciation Banquet (2019) **BUT WILL NOT BE PUNCHED THAT NIGHT.**

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET YOUR CARD PUNCHED!

VIRGINVILLE GRANGE NEWS

November 25, 2017: The Virginville Grange will be sponsoring a Benefit Dance and Raffle for the Ethan Kunkel family. Mr. Kunkel, a member of Virginville Grange, had cell stem therapy for leukemia. The dance will be from 7 to 10 p.m. and the cost is \$8. Music by the Majestics. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available for sale.



BERKS COUNTY JUNIOR GRANGE DRILL TEAM AT STATE SESSION

Master: Veronica Heckman

Overseer: Kaylen Leiby

Lecturer: Brayden Heckman

Steward: Tyler Davis

Ass't Steward: Wyatt Koller

L. Ass't Steward: Avery Tworkoski

Secretary: Lizzie Seidel

Chaplain: Emma Seidel

Gatekeeper: Tanner Davis

Ceres: Autumn Tworkoski

Pomona: Samantha Davis

Flora: Alexa Davis

Marching Candidates: Clay Davis, Jacob Schroeder, Travis Riegel

Junior Leader: Isaac Mengel

Ass't Jr. Leader: Mikayla Davis

Derek and Lindsay Schroeder prepared the degree and drill with the juniors (no treasurer was in the drill)



POMONA APPRECIATION BANQUET

The Pomona Appreciation Banquet will be held Saturday, January 20, 2018, at the Fleetwood Grange Hall. Doors open at 6:15; dinner served at 6:45 p.m.

Meal will be Baked Ham, Lasagna, Parsley Potatoes, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Mixed Veggies, and Ice Cream. All volunteers from the Pomona Sale and all First Place Winners at State Session will receive a FREE ticket. Additional tickets will be available at a cost of \$15 for adults (11+) and \$7.50 for children ages 3-10. Tickets will be mailed out to Subordinate Masters and Junior Directors in mid-November. If you are not contacted by your master or director regarding your ticket, please direct questions to Derek Schroeder, 610-698-3999 or via email at chairs2014@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER 2017—FEBRUARY 2018

- Nov. 11 VETERAN'S DAY
- Nov. 11 Pomona trip to Sight & Sound (see article)
- Nov. 13 Deadline for Pioneer Potato Filling orders (see article)
- Nov. 18 Hamburg Grange "All You Can Eat Pot Pie Dinner", 4—7 p.m. (see article for further details)
- Nov. 20 Pre-Quarterly Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21 Kutztown Grange Potato filling and Bacon dressing sale (see article for further details)
- Nov. 22 Pioneer Grange PA Dutch Potato Filling Sale (see article)
- Nov. 23 THANKSGIVING DAY
- Nov. 25 Virginville Grange Benefit Dance, 7—10 p.m. (see article)
- Nov. 26 County Jr. Bowling @Heister's Lanes, 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 26 Deadline for Pioneer Grange Hoagie Sale (see article)
- Nov. 27 Kutztown Grange Basket Bingo @6:45 p.m. (see article for further details)
- Dec. 2 Junior deadline to let Gail know if you are going to be at the December Pomona meeting
- Dec. 3 Ontelaunee Grange breakfast, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale (see article)
- Dec. 7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
- Dec. 8 Berks Heim Santa's Corner, 9 a.m.—2 p.m. (see article)
- Dec. 9 County Meeting @Friendship Fire Co., 9:45 a.m. 3443 Hay Creek Road, Birdsboro (NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION)
- Dec. 10 Attend Hoss's for the benefit of the Juniors-with coupon
- Dec. 12 Berks Heim Building "A" party (see article)
- Dec. 13 Berks Heim Building "B" party (see article)
- Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEARS
- Jan. 6 Hamburg Grange bus trip to PA Farm Show (see article)
- Jan. 7 Ontelaunee Grange breakfast, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.
- Jan. 17 ECHO deadline
- Jan. 20 Appreciation Banquet @Fleetwood Grange, 6:45 p.m.
- Jan. 21 Kutztown Grange Basket Bingo @1:30 p.m. (see article for further details)
- Feb. 2 & 3 Junior Grange Sleepover at Fleetwood Grange
- Feb. 4 Ontelaunee Grange breakfast, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.
- Feb. 5 Collate ECHO, Ontelaunee Grange hall, 3:15 p.m. (Fleetwood members are encouraged to help)



KUTZTOWN GRANGE NEWS

Kutztown Grange will be holding the following events:

November 21—Potato filling and Bacon Dressing sale. Filling 1 1/2 pounds for \$4; 2 1/2 pounds for \$6. Bacon dressing: pint, \$4; quart, \$6. Orders must be placed by November 15 for pick up on November 21 between 2 and 6 p.m. Call 610-683-7975 to place your orders.

November 27—Basket Bingo is at 6:45 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. There will be 25 games for \$20 (includes hot dog and soda). Specials, Jackpot and raffle are extra. Please call 610-683-7975 or 610-395-3889 for tickets.

January 21—Basket Bingo is at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at Noon. There will be 25 games for \$20 (includes hot dog and soda). Specials, Jackpot and raffle are extra. Please call 610-683-7975 or 610-395-3889 for tickets.

HAMBURG GRANGE NEWS

The "All You Can Eat" Chicken Pot Pie Dinner will be held November 18 from 4—7 p.m. at the Hamburg Area High School, Windsor Street, Hamburg. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 3-8; and free for children 2 and under. The dinner includes chicken pot pie, corn, applesauce, pickles, lettuce with bacon dressing and a drink. There will be a bake sale and take-out is available. If you have any questions or wish to purchase tickets, contact Michael Adams, 61-562-5933.

All active duty or retired military (with ID) will receive a FREE meal at this dinner.

PIONEER GRANGE NEWS

Nov. 22—Pioneer Grange PA Dutch Potato Filling Sale. 1.5 lbs—\$4; 2.5 lbs—\$6. Orders due by Nov. 13th. Pick-up at the grange hall from 3—6 p.m. To order call Tammy at 610-463-7213.

Dec. 4—Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale, \$5. Pick-up at grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Orders due by Nov. 26th. Call Tammy at 610-463-7213 to order.

JUNIOR ROYALTY

Hello, my name is **Veronica Heckman** and I am the **Berks County Junior Grange Princess**. I have been in the Jr. Grange since I was 5 years old. I am 15 years old. I am in the 10th grade at Hamburg Area High School. I play three sports which are, field hockey, basketball, and softball. I am in the L.I.S.A. club, which stands for Leadership In Student Athletes. I am also on a softball travel team called S.W.A.T., which stands for Softball With AttiTude. I play for Hamburg 14U summer softball youth rec league. Some of my hobbies are fishing, hunting, kayaking, golfing, swimming, four wheeling, and wave runner riding. I am very excited about going to talk about the Jr. Grange and share my camp stories as Jr. Princess.

Hi my name is **Tanner Davis**. I am the newly crowned **Berks County Prince and Pennsylvania Junior Grange Prince**. My parents are Mike and Angie Davis. I have two sisters, Mikayla and Alexa and one brother, Bryce. I belong to Ontelaunee Junior Grange. I'm excited to represent the Junior Grange along with the other Junior Grange royalty. I'm really looking forward to the next year and all the activities that I'll get to participate in.

Hi my name is **Logan Eisenhower** and I am the **Berks County Junior Grange Mini-Prince**. I'm 9 years old. I go to Marion Junior Grange. I attend Bethel Elementary in the Tulpehocken School District. I like to help feed the calves at my grandparents' farm. I like to create things with Legos and play baseball. I love when I get to go camping with the family. An interesting fact you may not know about me, is that I love to study, read, and go to Gettysburg and learn all I can about the Civil War. I'm looking forward to visiting the different granges, going to state camp, and handing out ribbons at the fair.

Hi, my name is **Emma Seidel** and I am the **Berks County Junior Grange Mini-Princess**. I am 8 years old and I am in 3rd grade at Whitfield Elementary School. I am the daughter of Madeline and Henry Seidel. I belong to Virginville Junior Grange. I attend Sunday School at Zion's Lutheran Church. The activities I do outside of the Grange are dance, gymnastics, softball, and just started playing violin in my school's orchestra. I enjoy reading, drawing/coloring, swimming, and playing with my friends. The thing I most enjoy about Jr. Grange Camp is Gaga ball, four square, and the crafts. I enjoyed handing out ribbons at both the Reading & Kutztown Fairs, and look forward to visiting other Granges around the county.



STATE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ State Grange Master, newly elected, is Wayne Campbell; Overseer—JV Lamb; Executive Committee—James Diamond
- ◆ Berks County had 6 Youth filling the chairs to open the Grange on Saturday: Lindsay Schroeder, Jake Mengel, Isaac Mengel, Owen Stemko and Andrew Kieffer)
- ◆ Kutztown Grange received 1st place for their Open House Report
- ◆ Berks County Juniors presented the Junior Degree Sunday morning
- ◆ Jacob Mengel placed 1st and Isaac Mengel placed 3rd in the Impromptu Public Speaking contest; Gail Switzer placed 1st in the Impromptu and Prepared Speech contests
- ◆ Jennifer Beamon participated in the Sign-A-Song competition and will be representing PA at Eastern Regionals
- ◆ Ontelaunee Grange received 2nd place for their Community Service report (Granges with 61+ members) and Kutztown Grange received an Honorable Mention (Granges with 61+ members); Ontelaunee Grange placed 3rd for Overall in Community Service books!
- ◆ Berks County Pomona Grange received 1st place for their Lecturer Report
- ◆ Virginville Grange received 1st for their Lecturer Report; Ontelaunee Grange placed 1st for their Lecturer's Report
- ◆ 48 Pomona delegates from 27 Pomonas; 108 Subordinate delegates from 62 Subordinates

PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S CORNER by Nettie A. Kauffman

A new year begins in the Program Coordinator/Lecturer area and encouragement is made for the Berks County Subordinate Granges to consider doing a project/contest for the 2018 contest year.

Berks County has so many Grangers that like to tell stories, some may be truth and some may be made-up of truths and untruths. It would be great to see each Subordinate Grange have some type of creative writing with either a poem or short story telling program. Then gather these writings and use them for entries in the PEN IN HAND contest on the State level. Yes, there are specific requirements – 300 words maximum for a poem and 1,500 word maximum for the Short Story. Now it does not indicate in the rules any MIMIMUM number of words, but you would at least want to make it a good poem or story! Specific rules are required when it is submitted for a state entry, but this can be done after the program.

An area within the PC/Lecturer's department where everyone has a talent and can be creative is with the "MY FAVORITE ANYTHING" contest. You may not like performing in front of a crowd by singing or playing a musical instrument, but you can do something! If you like tinkering with wood, plastic, material, yarn, etc., you can be creative and make "My Favorite Anything." The item must not exceed 2' x 2' x 2' and cannot be an item that is eligible for any other State Grange contest (Family Activities, Youth and Program Coordinator). I encourage all members to try their talent with something in the MY FAVORITE ANYTHING contest.

Why am I encouraging you on these contests now? When the cold winds blow and the snow gets too high to go anywhere, than this would be the time to create something in any of the contests featured in the PC/Lecturer's department, or, in any of the other departments. If you don't have the contests you can always contact your PC/Lecturer or any other department chair in your Grange for the information. Another way is to go on the PA State Grange web-site (www.pagrang.org) and download the information. I, too, would also be willing to provide information to you.

Here's hoping that we have entries in the forthcoming year of 2018 at the annual 2018 State Session since you can start preparing NOW!

YOUTH REPORT by Robert Beamon

Berks County Youth members (Lindsay Schroeder, Jake Mengel, Isaac Mengel, Owen Stemko and Andrew Kieffer) participated as Youth officers at the 145th Annual PA State Session in Scranton, PA. Lindsay also wrote and taught the State Officers the opening drill.

The Berks County Youth would like to thank all the Granges and committees that donated toward the Wernersville State Hospital Christmas project. Members will go shopping for the requested items.

The Youth will be filing the Officer positions at the March Pomona meeting. We are looking for youth aged members to participate and perform an opening drill. If interested, please contact Robert Beamon.

We will be looking to plan some events in the near future. Thank you for your continued support of the Youth Department.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Kenneth Schlegel

Queen Elizabeth II once said over the years, " some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasms and their inspiration to work together." I guess you can tell that she never worked with something called Democrats and Republicans.

Our Congress in Washington D. C. or legislature in Harrisburg does accomplish things, but when they come to the big issues it's a different story! The Good Old Boys Club, whether the membership is Democrats or Republicans always seems to reign! Our elected officials are no dummies! But where is the universal efforts of combining talents, insights, and enthusiasm of moving our country forward?

Bits and Pieces

Ronald Reagan once said, "We must reject the idea that every time a law is broken, society is guilty, rather than the lawbreaker." It is time to feature the American precept that each individual is accountable for their actions.

Remember 3000+ people died on 9/11 and not 1 shot was fired. It's not a gun issue, it's a HATE issue!

Rumor has it that Mexico said they will pay for the wall if we give them Texas. Let's barter and give them California instead!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

The contest year for 2017 has ended with the annual State Session, so we now must start thinking about the 2018 contest year. With this in mind, it is not too early to think about doing an extra project when making crafted items for your Christmas lists this year.

According to the PA State Grange Guide to Contests & Programs 2017 & 2018, all contests will remain the same with the exception of the Baking Contest and a change in the pattern for the Quilt Block contest. At the time of writing this article, these two contests were not known but will be revealed at the 2017 State Session. More information to follow in future articles on these contests.

The contests that remain the same for 2018 will be – your Quilt contests (large quilt, baby/crib quilt, wall hangings, the machine quilting and pre-printed top quilt), Embroidery, Counted Cross Stitch, Plastic Canvas, Afghan (full size and baby), Doilies/Centerpieces, Coat Rack (wooden or other material), Hat and Scarf sets (crocheted and knitted for adult or child) Decorated Christmas Stockings (quilted or appliquéd, counted cross stitch and either lined or unlined) as well as a Other category (use of felt, metal, plastic, etc.). One can also be creative making a Set of 4 Coasters (cork, tile, wood, or other material). Clocks are another creative item that may be made (wooden or other with two different sizes).

The F.A. department for Berks County Pomona Grange looks forward to seeing a lot more entries than in the past. Remember, the men of our organization may participate in any of the contests!

Please contact your Subordinate F.A. Director or go on the web-site (www.pagrang.org) to retrieve the information.



**YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE STATE FILL OFFICER CHAIRS
AT STATE SESSION 2017**

HAMBURG GRANGE BUS TRIP TO FARM SHOW

Hamburg Grange is sponsoring a bus to the 2018 PA Farm show on Saturday, January 6. Leave at 8:15 a.m. from the South end of the Hamburg Redner's parking lot, drop off and pick up at main entrance of Farm show Complex, return 6 p.m. The cost is \$18 and you can call Anna Heffner at 610-207-9755 for reservations or any other questions.

AUGUST 25, 2018—50th Annual Consignment Sale

Yes, you read that correctly. Next year will be the 50th year of the Pomona Grange Consignment Sale.

QUESTION: Should Pomona Grange do anything special to commemorate the 50th year? Bring your ideas and suggestions to the December Pomona meeting OR give your suggestions to Henry Seidel, Fern Kulp, Eric Blatt or Ben Sonon.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Carlene Kleckner

At the December Pomona meeting, please bring your Angel Tree wrapped gift, if you are participating. If you cannot make it to Pomona (in Birdsboro) on December 9, please make sure you give it to someone to bring. You could also bring it to the Pre-Pomona meeting, November 20th, at the Ontelaunee Grange hall, 7 p.m. The representative from the Salvation Army will be at the Pomona meeting to receive the gifts.

CONSIGNMENT SALE REPORT

The annual Consignment Sale was held August 26, 2017. Years ago we had a profit in the range of \$12,000—\$15,000. That is no longer the case. This year our profit was around \$7,600. We had :

250 consigners

732 buyer numbers given out

115 household lots (1 was for nursery)

89 lawn & garden lots

46 field equipment consigners for 125 lots

Those numbers are definitely lower than in past years also.

We had 34 volunteers sign in for Thursday help; 35 volunteers for Friday's help; and 135 volunteers sign in for the day of sale to help. Even with those numbers, we were still short with helpers in the office and could have used a few more volunteers for other areas. So, please plan to help next year. For the Monday clean up and Monday evening work night, we had a total of 24 volunteers sign in and Tuesday work night, we had 13 volunteers sign in.

The Family Activities made approximately \$2300 in profit; the youth, around \$850 in profit from their stand; and the juniors around \$460 profit. Selling these food items are enjoyed by all in attendance and helps these various groups sponsor activities and support community service projects throughout the year. We want to THANK Thomas Bechtel for donating the eggs used by the Family Activities for their breakfast sandwiches. (The egg sandwiches were delicious!)

Pomona Grange relies on the sale profit for its donations, etc. throughout the year. Therefore, we need to tightened our belts and watch our spending for the 2018 year. We had 2 titled vehicles and sold both. We had 11 titled trailers and sold 7 of them. We were planning to have a tractor parade; however, we did not have enough participation to hold this event.

We will be holding an Appreciation Banquet on January 20, 2018. The volunteers, auctioneers and state grange first place winners will be treated to a FREE MEAL at the Fleetwood Grange hall. More details elsewhere in this ECHO newsletter.

We need to have people contact the committee ahead of time to have items advertised that they are planning to bring to sell. This is not limited to only Lawn & Garden or Farm Equipment, but also Household items. For example, if you are planning to bring Longaberger baskets, dining room table with chairs, china cabinet, etc., please let the committee know so that we can advertise. The more we can advertise, the better for you, the consignor, and for buyers to know what to look for.

There was a Post-Sale meeting on Monday, October 9. The next meeting will be held May 7, 2018. We are asking that EACH GRANGE have a representative at these meetings. We need input from EVERYONE to make this event better and to keep our membership informed. The committee should not be the only ones making these crucial decisions. The profits from the sale affect Pomona activities for the following year.

During the 2017 Consignment Sale, we held a 50/50 drawing to help raise monies. We raised \$474 for Pomona. Four (4) prizes of \$118.50 was awarded to the 4 winners: Mike Miller, Theodore Skoraszewski, Robert Himmelberger and Leslie Seidel. A big thank you to those of you who helped sell or buy tickets.

If anyone has any suggestions as to how to improve the Sale or have other suggestions as to fundraisers that Pomona could hold, we are open to ALL SUGGESTIONS!

AGRICULTURE REPORT by Doug Sattazahn

2017 has brought about many changes to our dairy farm. We are nearly finished with building a new milking parlor and barn for 200 cows. The first ground was moved in April and we should be milking by early November.

Modernization is something our family has talked about for a few years. We have more cows than we can properly care for in the old barns. The new facility will feature sand bedding, which is very comfortable for cows to lay on, and a recovery system to separate the sand from the manure and reuse it. The parlor will allow many more cows to be milked per hour and will be much less labor intensive.

New technology on today's farms is pretty amazing. The barn's climate is controlled automatically with sidewall curtains, fans and misters that respond to changes in temperature, wind, and humidity. The cow's activity is monitored 24 hours a day to determine if they are in heat, need medical attention, or know if they're eating. Cows can be separated once they leave the milking parlor by ear tags that emit a radio frequency to automatically open gates.

The cost of upgrading is no doubt steep for agriculture today. However, when family farms can transition to the next generation and thrive, those costs are worth it.

CONTEST CORNER

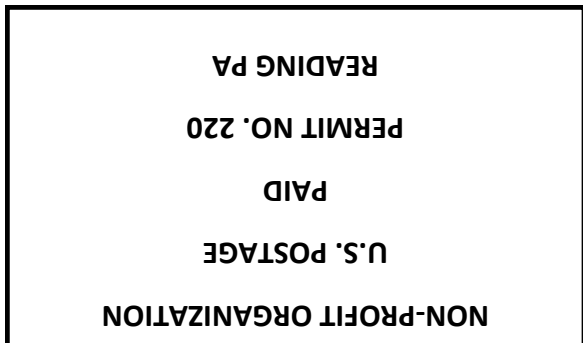
Please bring your completed contest form to the December Pomona meeting. You must be present to win!

NAME _____ GRANGE _____

Truth or Turkey Christmas Questions – Circle TRUTH if you think the statement is correct, or TURKEY if you think the statement is incorrect.

- Truth or Turkey: *Eggnog really does have eggs in it.*
- Truth or Turkey: *The song “Jingle Bells” was first written for Turkey Day.*
- Truth or Turkey: *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer had a very stubby nose*
- Truth or Turkey: *Tiny Tim was almost called Puny Pete.*
- Truth or Turkey: *The 12 Days of Christmas begin on December 14th.*
- Truth or Turkey: *Reindeer Donner and Blitzen are named after weather phenomenon.*
- Truth or Turkey: *St. Nicholas is the French name for Santa Claus.*
- Truth or Turkey: *On the 8th day of Christmas my true love gave to me 8 Ladies Dancing.*

Answers from last issue: 1) December 4, 1867; 2) Flag and Open Bible; 3) Harry Truman or FDR; 4) Betsy Huber; 5) 7; 6) High Priest of Demeter; 7) 30 days; 8) Pink; and 9) Oliver Hudson Kelley. Congratulations to the winner: Jane Adams



BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED