

# POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

NOVEMBER 2024

## 2024-2026 POMONA OFFICERS

President: Open *	Vice-President: Jocelyn Merkel
Program Coordinator: Debra Kieffer	Steward: Michael Adams
Ass't Steward: Isaac Mengel	L.A.S.: Jane Adams
Chaplain: Diane Adams	Treasurer: Shirley Breininger
Secretary: Jennifer Beamon	Gatekeeper: Richard Kieffer
Ceres: Desira Rickenbach	Pomona: Autumn Tworkoski
Flora: Donna Kunkle	Ex. Comm: David Merkel & Denise Clare

\*Since the September Pomona meeting, the name of David Merkel has been suggested. Action on this suggestion will be taken at the December Pomona meeting. He would need to resign the Ex. Committee position, if elected as President. Then a new person would need to be suggested/elected to the Ex. Committee position.

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## 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.

## Lunch after our Pomona meeting December 14, 2024

Fleetwood Grange will be providing a lunch for the members at Pomona. They will be serving soup and sandwiches for those who wish to join in the fellowship and lunch.

Thank you to the members of Fleetwood Grange!

### SPECIAL INTEREST

2024-2026 Pomona Officers—1  
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Please check website:

[www.berkscountygrange.org](http://www.berkscountygrange.org) for current information. Jennifer Beamon, if needed, can post your events.

# Berks County Junior Grange News

## **State Session Junior Contest Winners**

Congrats to all of the contest winners at state session!

### **Cooking – Rice Krispies Treats**

*Junior at Heart*

2<sup>nd</sup> – Lindsay Haggerty – Virginville Grange

### **Design a T-Shirt – “Inspirational Quote”**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

2<sup>nd</sup> – Kayleigh Covey – Pioneer Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> – Brayden Covey – Pioneer Grange

### **Mini Pumpkin – Painted**

*Age 5-9*

3<sup>rd</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

1<sup>st</sup> – Lillian Dusko – Virginville Junior Grange

2<sup>nd</sup> – Ellie Schroeder – Virginville Junior Grange

### **Mini Pumpkin – Most Creative**

*Junior at Heart*

1<sup>st</sup> – Jen Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Mini Pumpkin – Virtual**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Creative Writing – “All About Me”**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

2<sup>nd</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Diamond Art – From a Kit**

*Age 10-14*

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kayleigh Covey – Pioneer Grange

### **Art – Image – Black & White**

*Age 5-9*

3<sup>rd</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

1<sup>st</sup> – Justin Dusko – Virginville Junior Grange

4<sup>th</sup> – Lillian Dusko – Virginville Junior Grange

### **Art – Image – Made-in-School**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

1<sup>st</sup> – Lillian Dusko – Virginville Junior Grange

### **Art – 3D – Handprint/Fingerprint/Footprint**

*Age 5-9*

2<sup>nd</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Art – 3D – Sunrise/Sunset**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

4<sup>th</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Art – 3D – Black & White**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

2<sup>nd</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Art – 3D – Made-in-School**

*Age 5-9*

4<sup>th</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

### **Photography – Barns & Farms**

*Age 5-9*

4<sup>th</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

1<sup>st</sup> – Brayden Covey – Pioneer Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kayleigh Covey – Pioneer Grange

### **Photography – Bridges & Water**

*Age 10-14*

2<sup>nd</sup> – Brayden Covey – Pioneer Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kayleigh Covey – Pioneer Grange

### **Photography – Things with Wheels**

*Age 5-9*

2<sup>nd</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

1<sup>st</sup> – Kayleigh Covey – Pioneer Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> – Brayden Covey – Pioneer Grange

### **Photography – “Snow” Much Fun**

*Age 5-9*

1<sup>st</sup> – Savannah Beamon – Hamburg Grange

4<sup>th</sup> – Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

*Age 10-14*

1<sup>st</sup> – Brayden Covey – Pioneer Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kayleigh Covey – Pioneer Grange

### **Shooting Stars** (2 state events)

Heidi Eisenhower – Marion Junior Grange

Alexis Servin – Marion Junior Grange

### **SuperStars** (3 state events)

Riley Beamon – Hamburg Grange

Van Beamon – Hamburg Grange

Samantha Davis – Ontelaunee Jr Grange

Justin Dusko – Virginville Jr Grange

Lillian Dusko – Virginville Jr Grange

Ellie Schroeder – Virginville Jr Grange

Jacob Schroeder – Virginville Jr Grange

# Berks County Junior Grange News

## **2024 Jr. Attendance Contest**

In order to qualify, a junior member must participate in at least 4 junior events (i.e. sleepover, camp, swim party, mini golf holiday party), and 1 contest on the State level.

Upcoming activities:

- ◇ Line dancing fundraiser – 5:30-9 November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Virginville Grange
- ◇ Junior Friendsgiving/Holiday Party at Ontelaunee Grange (December 7, 6-8pm)

## **Junior Friendsgiving Holiday Party**

We will be celebrating the upcoming holidays on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6-8pm at Ontelaunee. RSVP with Gail for pizza headcount

Dress in your best ugly holiday sweater or festive attire – prizes to be awarded!

### What to bring:

A wrapped gift \$10-\$15  
Holiday Cheer

## **Line Dancing Fundraiser**

Join us on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for our 2<sup>nd</sup> line dancing fundraiser at Virginville Grange.

Doors open at 5:30 and dancing starts at 6:30pm and goes to 9.  
\$5 admission and food and drink for sale.

Cash only sales

## **The Westy Fundraiser**

Thank you to those who dined at The Westy on September 25. We earned \$219.45

Join us for our next Junior Team Meeting:  
**Monday, January 6** at 7pm – Virtual

## **State Junior Grange Director Update**

We are excited to announce that Jennifer Beamon has been appointed and accepted the role as the PA State Junior Grange Director. From being a Junior, to a Junior Supporter, parent of Juniors, serving on the PA State Junior Committee for the past 4 years and supporting the county Junior Grange for several years, we all know Jen will succeed in this role.



## **Reading Fightin' Phils**

The Junior & Youth Department will be working on setting up a day/night at the Reading Fightin' Phils to celebrate Grange Month in April. More details to come, but please be on the lookout to come out to the ballpark and join in fellowship with your Grange friends and family.

## Youth Department News

- The Junior Department Team will be heading up Youth Programming at this current time. We will hold youth team meetings in conjunction with the junior team meetings quarterly via Zoom. Please reach out to Gail if you are interested in joining. The next team meeting will be January 6 at 7pm.
- Congratulations to Autumn Tworkoski who was named the PA State Grange Outstanding Young Patron at Family Festival.
- Congrats to Jacob Fegley on being selected for the Grange Scholarship Endowment at PSU as well as the PA Grange Foundation Scholarship.
- Congrats and a job well done to the Youth Officer Team at the PA Grange Session in Cranberry Township. Berks County participants include: Autumn Tworkoski (President), Cadence Tempel (Flora), Grace Tempel (Executive Committee), and Emma Seidel (Executive Committee)
- Good Luck to Desira Rickenbach who will be competing at National Grange Session to be on the National Grange Youth/Young Adult Team.
- Thank you to all Granges that sent donations to the Wernersville State Hospital. If you have not yet, please send to Kathy Ellett.
- All youth and 13/14 year old juniors (or parents of youth if they are not on social media) are encouraged to participate in the polls posted on the Youth Grange Facebook page in order to support the team in programming for the youth and young adults. There is a current poll open to identify activities the youth & young adults would prefer to hold throughout the year. If you or your youth/young adult need to be added, please reach out to Gail.
- Reading Royals Hockey – the team is currently working on identifying a date for the Reading Royals. The date is TBD and will be selected by beginning of November. All are welcome to join the youth and young adults at this event. Tickets will be approximately \$25. Either reach out to Gail directly or pay attention to the Berks County Pomona Grange Facebook page for the date.
- As listed on the Junior page, we will be working on setting up a day/night at the Reading Fightin' Phils. More information to come at the December and March Pomona Meetings.

### **Congrats to State Session Contest Winners:**

#### Start With a Cake Mix (White/Yellow Variation)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Tammy Schaeffer, Pioneer Grange

#### Start with a Cake Mix (Spice/Fruit/Nut Variation)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jane Adams, Hamburg Grange

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tammy Schaeffer, Pioneer Grange

#### Scrapbook Page (Grange themed)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lindsay Haggerty, Virginville Grange

#### Scrapbook Page (Other themed)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lindsay Haggerty, Virginville Grange

#### String Art Youth 14-21

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ava Jenkins, Pioneer Grange

#### String Art Young Adult 22-35

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lindsay Haggerty, Virginville Grange

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jennifer Beamon, Hamburg Grange

#### Recycled Craft Wood

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lindsay Haggerty, Virginville Grange

#### Public Speaking Young Adult 22-35

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Autumn Tworkoski, Hamburg Grange

#### Public Speaking Adult 36+

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: David Merkel, Ontelaunee Grange

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER 2024—FEBRUARY 2025

Nov. 10 Benefit Bingo @Virginville Grange (see enclosed article for further details)  
Nov. 12 Ag-Legislative Meeting @Ontelaunee Grange, 7:30 P.M.  
Nov. 12-16 National Grange, Bettendorf, IA  
Nov. 18 Basket Bingo @Kutztown Grange^^  
Nov. 24 Jr. Roller Skating @Fantasy 1 P.M.  
Nov. 26 Kutztown Grange Potato Filling & Bacon Dressing sale^  
Nov. 27 Pioneer Grange Pa Dutch Potato Filling Sale\*  
Dec. 1 Ontelaunee Grange Breakfast, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Dec. 7 Junior Friendsgiving/Holiday Party @Ontelaunee Grange, 6—8 p.m.  
Dec. 9 Pioneer Grange Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sale\*\*  
Dec. 14 County Meeting @Fleetwood, 9:30 a.m. (Family Activities will meet at 9 a.m.)  
Dec. 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS  
Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR  
Jan. 4—11 PA Farm Show  
Jan. 5 Ontelaunee Grange Breakfast, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Jan. 5 Kutztown Basket Bingo^^^  
Jan. 6 Junior/Youth Team Meeting via Zoom, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 17 ECHO article deadline  
Feb. 2 Ontelaunee Grange Breakfast, 8 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Feb. 3 Collate ECHO @Ontelaunee Grange, 3 p.m.  
Feb. 14-15 Jr. Sleepover @Fleetwood Grange

^KUTZTOWN GRANGE, Nov. 26: Potato Filling & Bacon Dressing Sale. Orders due by November 15. Call Oletha, 610-395-3889., to place orders. Pick up at Kutztown Grange, 3 to 6 p.m. Filling: 2 lbs., \$8; 3 lbs., \$10. Bacon dressing: pint, \$5; quart, \$8

^^KUTZTOWN GRANGE, Nov. 18: Basket Bingo, 25 games for \$20. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Call Oletha, 610-395-3889, for advance tickets (by Nov. 15). Includes hot dog & bottle of water

^^^KUTZTOWN GRANGE, Jan. 5, Basket Bingo, 25 games for \$20. Doors open at 12 noon. Bingo starts at 1:30 p.m. Call Oletha, 610-395-3889, for advance tickets (by Jan. 2). Includes hot dog & bottle of water

\*PIONEER GRANGE, Nov. 27 PA Dutch Potato Filling, \$8—2.5 lbs, \$6—1.5 lbs. Deadline to order is Nov. 15 Pickup at the Grange hall from 2 to 6 p.m. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213. Limited quantity will be made.

\*\*PIONEER GRANGE, Dec. 9: Sandwiches \$5. Deadline to order is Nov. 27. Pickup at the Grange hall from 3 to 5 p.m. Call Tammy to order, 610-463-7213

### **BERKS HEIM** by Anna Heffner

Church services are happening on Sundays at 2:30. We need volunteers for the following Sundays: 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.

I will have a sign-up sheet for 2025 at our December meeting.

Heim Fest was a successful event. A big thank you to those who baked for the bake sale or volunteered to help at Heim Fest.

Items for this years Santa's Corner will be needed early in December.

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.

## VIRGINVILLE GRANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE

Fall is finally upon us and that means it's time for our annual Fall Bingo! We invite you to come out for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at our annual **Benefit Bingo on Sunday, November, 10th, 2024**. The bingo will be benefiting Sylvia Keller who is a community member with medical needs. We will also be having a special canned food game benefiting the "Keystone Military Families" in Shoemakersville. Please do not bring any donations in glass containers. Game packages are \$25 each with upgrades and special games available as well. Come early for lunch as doors open at 11:30 a.m. and games will begin at 1:00 p.m. Prizes include Thirty-One bags, Vera Bradley 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 Lee Gougler at 484-866-5304 by Saturday, November 3rd to reserve your seat.

Additionally, we will, once again, be helping the Salvation Army by ringing the bell at the Redner's in Hamburg on **Tuesday, December 10th** and **Wednesday, December 11th** from **10:00 a.m to 6:00 pm** both days. If you are able to give any amount of time to help, please contact Lee Gougler at 484-866-5304. If you have already signed up to help, thank you for donating your time to help those in need.

Finally, we are always 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 of individuals or groups needing help.

As always, we thank you for your continued support throughout the year! Without your help we wouldn't be able to help so many in the community.

### HAMBURG GRANGE PLASTIC RECYCLING

The Hamburg Grange is collecting plastic bags for the Hamburg Rotary. They are collecting soft plastics which will be recycled into plastic benches made by TREX, and placed around Hamburg.

The list of plastic bags includes; bread bags, produce bags, newspaper sleeves, pallet wrap & stretch film, salt & ice bags, grocery bags, cereal bags, case overwrap, bubble wrap, wood pellet bags, plastic shipping envelopes, dry cleaning bags, Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags.

Basically, if you can stretch the plastic and it feels soft, that meets the requirements for TREX.

Please contact Michael Adams @ 610-562-5933 for more information or any questions.

### POMONA BBQ REPORT

First, I want to say Thank You to Ontelaunee Grange for allowing us to hold the BBQ sale there and to all the people that helped with the selling of the dinners.

The Family Activities had a bake sale and sold pepper cabbage. We sold 600 Kauffman BBQ dinners, Fern Kulp sold over 190, followed by Virginville Grange with 170, and Ontelaunee Grange with 93. We made a profit of \$2,038. Next year's date will be Sunday, August 31 at the Ontelaunee Grange.

Any questions, contact Michael Adams @ 610-562-5933.

### POMONA LOTTERY CALENDAR FOR 2025

It was discussed and decided that we will be doing another Pomona Lottery Calendar as a fundraiser. They were distributed to all the Granges at the September Pomona meeting.

We will be selling 500 lottery calendars with 2 numbers on each. It will be done during the months of January and February for 2025. They will cost \$10 and they each have 2 numbers on them and will pay out \$20 Monday thru Friday, \$25 Saturday and Sunday, and \$100 on 1/1 New Year's Day and Valentine's Day.

Please try to have them all sold and turned in at the December Pomona meeting at Fleetwood. Any questions, contact Michael Adams @ 610-562-5933.

## **SUGGESTED TITLE CHANGES TO B.C.P.G. #43 BY-LAWS**

WHEREAS, the Grange Law Committee Report from the 2023 National Grange Convention published in the 2023 National Grange Journal of Proceedings recommends changing the titles of the Grange officers from the traditional titles of Master and Overseer to the alternative titles of President and Vice President, respectively; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in all instances throughout the Berks County Pomona Grange #43 By-Laws where the term "Master/President" is used, "President" shall take its place; where the term "Overseer/Vice President" is used, "Vice President" shall take its place where the term "Lecturer" is used, "Program Coordinator" shall take its place; and where the term "Gatekeeper" is used, "Greeter" shall take its place.

Source: Berks County Pomona Grange #43

Reference: Grange Law Committee Report from the 2023 National Grange Convention

The above Title Change resolution will be acted on at the December 2025 Pomona meeting.

### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

By Debbie Kieffer

Well, we just got through the hot days of summer, now the leaves are changing color. Before we know it, the snow will be falling. Christmas gatherings will be upon us.

I would like everyone attending the next Pomona meeting to think about 1 thing that you like about December. Whether it is very recent or something from your past years. After we reminisce a little then we will have some fun.

See you in Dec.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE** by Carlene Kleckner

Hi everyone. Hope you all had a good summer.

A big thank to all that brought items for last meeting.

Please bring the Angel tree tags with gifts to the Dec. 14 meeting at Fleetwood Grange. Have them there by the start of the meeting (9:30 a.m.). The Salvation Army will be collecting them at the start of the meeting and if you miss them you will then need to drop your gift off at the Salvation Army.

This will be my last article for I am stepping down. Thank you to all of you that have brought items and supported the Grange throughout the year. Good luck to Michael Adams who will be stepping in.

Hope you all have a good Fall.

### **AGRICULTURAL REPORT** by Doug Sattazahn

Pennsylvania is a leading state in pumpkin production, with its fertile soil and diverse climate providing ideal conditions for growing pumpkins. The state ranks among the top five in the U.S. for pumpkin harvest, producing nearly 100 million pounds annually. Pumpkin farms are spread across Pennsylvania, with significant concentrations in Lancaster, Lehigh, and York counties.

Pumpkin farming plays a crucial role in the state's economy, particularly during the fall season when demand spikes for pumpkins used in Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations. Farmers grow a variety of pumpkins, from small decorative types to large carving pumpkins and pie pumpkins used for baking.

The industry benefits from Pennsylvania's network of local markets, festivals, and agritourism events, such as pumpkin patches and hayrides, which attract visitors from all areas of the state.

Overall, pumpkin production is a vibrant part of Pennsylvania's agricultural heritage, supporting both the local economy and seasonal traditions, while contributing to the state's reputation as a leader in diverse crop production.

### **THANK YOU OLEY FAIR VOLUNTEERS**

27 members and friends of Berks County Grange volunteered to help sell soup and work in other areas of the food stands at the Oley Fair 2024. We sold all of the 350 gallons of soup by 8:35 p.m. the last evening of the Fair. We appreciate the dedication of our Grangers to help with this Fair. If you'd like to help next year, mark your calendars for September 18, 19, and 20, 2025.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

## Family Activities, Jane Reppert

With the winter month around us, it is time to think about next year's activities. If we have a winter with a lot of snow (I hope not), you can start working on contest entries for next year if you are stuck inside.

**Thank you** to the granges members who donated baked goods for the Family Activities bake sale at the Pomona Grange BBQ in September. Also, thank you to Fleetwood Grange for making the pepper cabbage and all the volunteers that helped during the events. It was a great success with your support. The baked goods that were not sold were donated to the Leesport EMS for their service to the community.

We had 24 entries in the needlework/craft contests and 14 entries in the baking contest. This was 6 entries less than last year. I would like to thank everyone who did enter in the Family Activities Contest this year. The first place winners were sent to the State Grange judging in October. The extra baked goods from the contest were taken to "Grand View Manor Personal Care Home" for their service to the community.

Most of the contest are the same as late year except the quilt block, the baking, and a few special contests. I hope your grange received the new contest or soon will. So, let's get started early on the 2025 contests and have more entries next year. If you need a copy of the contest and rules, contact you subordinate Chairperson.

The Pomona Family Activities still have some **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks**, which would make a nice Christmas gift for someone. Just give me a call (610-562-2647) and we can make arrangements to get it to you.

Thank you to everyone who made walker organizers for our special project the past year. There were 11 organizers made. The walker organizers are being donated to nursing homes.

Thank you to everyone who donated socks at our last Pomona meeting for the joined project of the Family Activities and the Community Service Committee. We delivered 45 pairs of socks to Keystone Military Families to use in the Christmas stockings they fill and send overseas to our service men and women for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who donated slightly used suitcases, backpacks, and duffle bags. A total of 33 bags were collected and donated. The suitcase and bags will be of good use to people who have nowhere to keep their personal items.

It is that time of year with the weather getting cold and the fresh baked Christmas cookies filling the kitchen air. So, why not make an extra batch of Christmas cookies and bring them to the December Pomona meeting. We will be doing the "**Christmas Cookie Exchange**" again this year. Just bring 1 dozen Christmas Cookies on a plate to the Pomona meeting. You will receive 12 different cookies to take along home. Please put your name on the plate so we know who is to receive cookies to take home. We would also like if you would bring an extra dozen or more cookies, which will be packed into boxes and given to Veteran's in the area.

Do you need a Christmas gift for someone? The Pomona Family Activities is selling Applebee hamburger certificates for a fundraiser. They cost \$10.00 each and are good for any hamburger on their menu (extra for the 2 for \$25 & \$2). They do not expire. You can use them at any Applebee Restaurant in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. Check with your Family Activities Committee chairperson or you can call me (610-562-2647).

**The Pomona Family Activities will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. before the Pomona Meeting** to discuss any projects and donations we want to do. Please come with new ideas for projects and fundraisers for the coming year. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me and the Pomona Family Activities Committee over the past 4 years. We did many special projects, which were well supported. Jane Adams and Denise Clare will be co-chairing the Pomona Family Activities Committee this coming year. I hope everyone will give them the support you gave me.

With the Winter months coming, I hope everyone will stay healthy and have a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year.

**New contests: Quilt block: The Crayon Box; Baking: Scones—any flavor; White Chocolate Macadamia Nut cookies; Divinity Candy**

**Special Contests: Wine Bottle—painted; wine bottle—painted with lights; wine bottle—decorated; wine bottle—decorated with lights; Macrame Wall Hanging (large min 17 x 17—max 24 x 24); (small min 10 x 10—max 16 x 16); burlap—ornament (max 6"); burlap—wreath—max 18" dim; burlap—table decoration (max 12" high x 12" long)**

**The new special contests are in place of the tin punching, belts, and stenciling from last year.**



## POMONA HIGHLIGHTS

The following are the highlights from the September 7, 2024, Pomona meeting held at Virginville Grange. Remember, it is always better to have you in attendance so you can help in the making of the Pomona decisions.

- Kim Fies gave an update from the Berks County Dept. of Agriculture
- Nancy Dusko and Cynthia Oesterle were given the 5th degree obligation
- The National Grange office will remain in Washington, D.C. for the next 3 years
- Thank you to all Grangers who volunteered/helped with the Pomona BBQ and Berks County food stand
- PA Outstanding Young Patron is from Berks County, Autumn Tworkoski, and PA Junior Grange Ambassadors are also from Berks County—Justin Dusko and Samantha Davis
- Attendance: 15 Brothers, 30 Sisters, 8 Juniors, 1 Mini-Junior, 2 Visitors Total: 56
- Financial records will be audited Monday, Nov. 4 at the home of Henry Seidel
- County Camp will be May 16-18, 2025, “Survivor” theme
- Kauffman’s BBQ—profit around \$2039; all 600 dinners were sold
- 50/50 Raffle will be held March, April, May 2025—drawing at the June 7, 2025, Pomona—more details in next ECHO
- Membership as of 8/31/24: 914
- Received thank you notes from Kutztown Fair recipients: Elizabeth Keller, Haley Blatt, Kalina Rhoads
- Donated \$50 to the Berks County Fall Fest
- 4-H Livestock sale: Received sponsorship letters from Danica Rhoads, Zach Gougler and Owen Kutz
- Approved State Minimum automobile Coverage resolution
- Approved Suggested Title Changes to PA State Grange Bylaws resolution
- Approved United States Federal Tax on Unrealized Gains resolution
- Tabled Suggested Title Changes to BCPG #43 Bylaws (copy within this ECHO). Will be voted on at Dec. 2024 meeting.
- Literary Program was the installation of County and Pomona officers for 2024-2026 term.

## STATE GRANGE NEWS

**Family Activities Chairperson received a Certificate of Merit of their Subordinate Report:**

**Fleetwood Grange – Sharon Heck**

**Gouglersville Grange – Janice Stricker**

**Hamburg Grange – Denise Clare**

**Kutztown Grange – Jane Adams**

**Ontelaunee Grange – Nettie Kauffman**

**Pioneer Grange – Cindy Schlegel**

**Virginville Grange – Jane Reppert (Also for the Pomona report)**

The GRANGE NEWS publication will be publishing all winners in an upcoming issue.

**Subordinate Director of the Year award 2024 – Jane Reppert**

# CONTEST CORNER

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

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRANGE** \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas is fast approaching! Will you be ready? The songs are familiar, but do you know who was the original singer? Match the song on the right to the artist on the left.

- |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Bing Crosby     | A. Baby It's Cold Outside           |
| _____ 2. Burl Ives       | B. Jingle Bell Rock                 |
| _____ 3. The Beach Boys  | C. Frosty the Snowman               |
| _____ 4. Dean Martin     | D. The Christmas Song               |
| _____ 5. Chuck Berry     | E. Winter Wonderland                |
| _____ 6. Bobby Helms     | F. Run Rudolph Run                  |
| _____ 7. The Jackson 5   | G. Holly Jolly Christmas            |
| _____ 8. Ella Fitzgerald | H. Rockin Around the Christmas Tree |
| _____ 9. Brenda Lee      | I. Little Saint Nick                |
| _____ 10. Nat King Cole  | J. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus  |

September answers: 1. Grandparents Day, 2. National Potato Month, 3. Labor Day, 4. Teachers Day, 5. Milkshake Day, 6. Autumnal Equinox, 7. Sapphire Birthstone, 8. Back to School, 9. Read A Book Day, 10. Harvest Month, 11. Pumpkin Spice, 12. Ninth Month. Winner: Fern Kulp, Ontelaunee

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