

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

MAY 2024

A BIT OF THIS AND THAT FROM YOUR COUNTY GRANGE PRESIDENT

By Nettie A. Kauffman

As I sit down to write an article for the May ECHO newsletter, I thought about what we are facing today regarding the selection of the next President and Vice-President of the United States. There are issues on voting – who is right, who is wrong. We will be bombarded approximately for the next six months with all the political ads for the seeking of the President/Vice-President position down to the legislative positions within our State for both the Senate and House of Representatives.

In 2024 the United States will hold its 60th quadrennial (lasting every 4 years) presidential election on November 5, 2024. The winner of this election will be confirmed when the 119th Congress convenes on January 3, 2025; Congress counts the Electoral votes on January 6, 2025 and Inauguration Day will take place on January 20, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

WHY AM I PROVIDING ALL THIS INFORMATION? Berks County Pomona Grange will be holding its 33rd* election process on June 1st at 9:30 a.m. in the Ontelaunee Grange hall and **we are in need of a President and Vice President** to fill these positions to carry our Pomona Grange into the future. On a listing of past Presidents/Masters, there are only two women who served in this capacity; could there be a possible third?

I am encouraging those between the ages of 30 to 65 (but if there is someone out there either younger or older who would be willing to “step-up”, please do not hesitate). Listed below are names presented for the 2024-2026 B.C.P.G. Officers. (Executive and Finance Committee members serve a 3-year term).

President—OPEN
Vice-President—OPEN
Program Coor.—Debbie Kieffer, Marion
Steward—Michael Adams, Hamburg/Kutztown
Asst. Steward—Isaac Mengel, Fleetwood
L.A.S.—Jane Adams, Hamburg

(continued on page 4)

Inside this Edition:

Agriculture Report—4
Berks Heim—3
Calendar of Events—3
Community Service—8
Contest Corner—10
Family Activities—6
Grange Website—1
Junior Grange News—2
Legislative Report—5
Pomona Highlights—8
President’s Report—1 & 4
Program Coordinator—7

SPECIAL INTERST:

- * **BBQ Pomona Fundraiser—7**
- * **Fleetwood Grange Festival—6**
- * **Household Tips—9**
- * **Let’s Save Pomona Money—8**
- * **Lunch Option After Pomona—7**
- * **Mother’s Day Buffet—9**
- * **Oley Fair Soup Stand—7**
- * **Pomona Lottery Calendar—6**
- * **Quotes—9**
- * **Virginville Grange News—5**

GRANGE WEBSITE

berkscountygrange.org

IF YOU WANT INFORMATION POSTED ON THE WEBSITE:

Contact Jennifer Beamon at
jennifermarie707@gmail.com

Berks County Junior Grange News

Camp Coronation

We invite you for our coronation at Olivet Blue Mountain Camp at **2:00pm** this year, Sunday, May 19, 2024. We will be outside under a pavilion for the program.

Junior Volunteers over 18:

Clearances must be submitted to the state in order to support at junior events including county and state camp! Let Gail know if you need help.

Knoebels

Thursday, June 11
Pavilion H

Lunch and Dinner: 11:15 and 4:30
Park open: 12-8

Food sign up: Will be posted on the Berks Junior Facebook Page-
Knoebels event invite. Reach out to Derek or Barb Schroeder if you are not able to access the link on the Facebook group once posted

Calendar updates

- November event is now tentatively 11/2 for line dancing fundraiser
- December 7th – Junior Grange Friendsgiving Holiday Party – more details to come!

2024 Junior Attendance Contest

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

Upcoming activities:

- ◇ County Camp (May 17-19, Blue Mountain Camp)
- ◇ June Pomona (June 1st, Ontelaunee – no scheduled junior activity)
- ◇ Knoebels (June 11th)
- ◇ State Youth Camp (June 28-June 30) 13/14 yrs invited
- ◇ State Camp (June 30 - July 6, Camp Sylvan Hills)
- ◇ Swim Party (July 13, 6-9pm, Schoey Pool)
- ◇ September Pomona (September 7th, Virginville – tentative Crystal Cave)
- ◇ Mini Golf (September 22, 4pm, at Kauffman's)
- ◇ Line dancing fundraiser – November 2
- ◇ Jr. Friendsgiving Holiday Party – December 7
- ◇ December Pomona (December 14, Fleetwood – activity TBD)

Swim Party

Shoemakersville Pool

Saturday, July 13 from 6-9pm

NO DINNER THIS YEAR

Bring a snack or dessert to share

Drinks to be provided

Line Dancing Fundraiser

Thank you to all those that came out to support our first line dancing fundraiser.

Due to popular demand, we have tentatively scheduled our next line dance on Saturday, November 2. More details to come!

Join us for our next Junior Team Meeting: **July 8** at 7pm – Virtual

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY—JULY 2024

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

May 17-19 County Junior Camp @ Olivet Blue Mountain Camp, Hamburg
May 19 Camp Coronation, 2 P.M.
May 20 Basket Bingo, Kutztown Grange***
May 20 Deadline to order for Virginville Grange "Dairy Month" event
May 27 MEMORIAL DAY
June 1 County Meeting @Ontelaunee, 9:30 a.m.
June 2 Virginville Grange "Dairy Month" event (see article for details)
June 3 Pioneer Grange Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sale**
June 11 Junior Knoebel's Day (see page 2 for further details)
June 14 Fleetwood Grange Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival, 4—9 p.m. (see article for further details)
June 26 Ag Legislative Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7:30 p.m.
June 28-30 State Youth Camp, Camp Sylvan Hills
June 30—July 6 State Junior Camp, Camp Sylvan Hills
July 8 Jr. Team Meeting, 7 PM via Zoom
July 10-13 Berks County Fair
July 12 ECHO Deadline
July 13 Swim Party @Shoey Pool (see page 2 for further details)
July 18-21 PA Family Festival
July 29 ECHO Collate, 3:15 Ontelaunee Grange
Aug 5-10 Kutztown Fair
Aug 5 Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale*

*Pioneer: \$6 per sandwich. Pickup at the grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call orders to Tammy at 610-463-7213 by July 28.

**Pioneer: \$5 per sandwich. Pickup at the grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call orders to Tammy at 610-463-7213 by May 23.

***Kutztown Grange: Starts @6:45 p.m. Doors open @5.30 p.m. Call 610-395-3889 for tickets. \$20 for 25 games.

BERKS HEIM by Anna Heffner

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

Heim Fest will be held September 14, 2024, which means that it will not be a conflict with our September Pomona meeting. This means that Grange members will be able volunteer to help at Heim Fest, without having to skip our Pomona meeting. Volunteers are needed from 10:30am to 4:00pm. Split shifts can be arranged, no need to be there the whole time. Please call me if you are available to help with this activity.

Items for this years Santa's Corner will be needed early in December. More on this next Echo.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Treasurer—Shirley Breininger, Ontelaunee

Secretary—Jen Beamon, Hamburg

Gatekeeper—Richard Kieffer, Virginville

Ceres—Desira Rickenbach, Virginville

Pomona—Autumn Tworkoski, Hamburg

Flora—Donna Kunkle, Virginville

Ex. Comm.—Steve Mohn, Virginville

Fin. Comm.—Denise Clare, Virginville

Since our suggestion of names at the March meeting, I was contacted by Walter Ernst (Ex. Comm) that he wishes to be replaced. His term in this office would expire in 2025.

Looking to the summer months coming upon us, there are various activities that our members can become involved in through community service. I know the Berks County Fair (July 10 – 13) is looking for volunteers to help, and one of the areas will be in their food stand. More information will be presented at the June meeting. The hours have changed for the opening and closing each day of the fair. Oley Fair is again looking forward to our County Grange to help – more on this Fair during the upcoming months and especially at the September 7th County meeting. The on-going transportation of Berks Heim residents for Sunday church services is still seeking some Grangers to help. Contact Anna Heffner (610-207-9755 or amheffner@aol.com) to schedule this worth-while community service activity. The Officers/Department Chairs volunteering on June 9 are: Andrew Kieffer, Henry Seidel, Diane Adams, Michael Adams and Nettie Kauffman. The Officers/Department Chairs volunteering on October 13th are: Henry Seidel, Debbie Kieffer, Diane Adams, Ann Reigel and Fern Kulp. It would be great if 1 or 2 more persons would volunteer on either of these days. Time spent at the facility is 1:45 – 3:15 pm. The ending time could change depending on the church service.

I did not touch too much on the Juniors and their activities since this newsletter will probably be reaching you after their special event -- County Camp on May 17-19. I'm sure Gwen Switzer will be providing highlights from their weekend at our June 1st meeting and also present other information the Juniors will be involved in during the summer months.

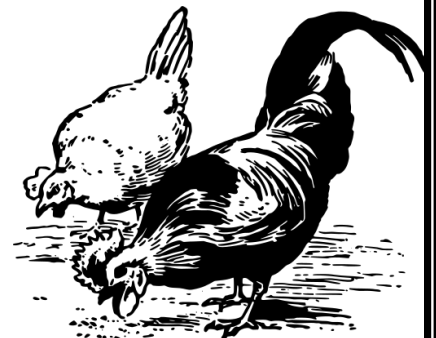
In closing my article, I would like to leave you with *a quote by John F. Kennedy*, **“Every person can make a difference, and every person should try.”** So 1) consider becoming a leader for our organization and 2) consider volunteering and helping.

* The exact number of years for individuals to hold the office of President/Master could not be determined since some of the Presidents/Masters served a one or two year term. This was changed around March 1923 for an individual to be able to serve two consecutive terms of two years.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT by Doug Sattazahn

You may have heard about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu in the poultry industry. This disease has been a problem to chicken farmers and Berks County has had a number of infections, resulting in many chickens having to be destroyed. The disease is a virus and cannot be treated.

Now bird flu has been found in dairy cattle on several farms in Texas. It seems likely that waterfowl spread the virus to these cows, but cow-to-cow spread has not been found. This resulted in depressed milk production, decreased feed intake, and thick milk. Some cattle on these farms moved to other states, therefore spreading the disease. None have been found in Pennsylvania, but some ended up in Ohio. Cattle do recover from the bird flu but the economic losses are still a problem. State officials are watching this disease closely considering dairy and poultry farms are both prominent here.



If you are a farmer, common sense would suggest making sure visitors have clean shoes and keeping people away from feed where disease can be spread. Poultry farms already have strict policies for sanitizing vehicle tires and limiting people around their facilities. This could be coming for dairies if bird flu is found in PA.

VIRGINVILLE GRANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE

As the days get longer and flowers begin to bloom we hope everyone is starting to get spring fever and finding some time to enjoy the beautiful weather! Our committee has been busy and we held our benefit bingo in March. We were able to help Rodney & Angie Bashore, community members with medical needs. Thank you to everyone who came out to play, helped with bingo, or made baked goods to sell. Additionally, 496 canned goods were collected and delivered to Keystone Military Families in Shoemakersville.

The community service committee will, once again, be holding our annual drive-thru fundraising event to benefit community outreach. We will be celebrating "Dairy Month" and will have food and sweets available for you to purchase. Orders are due by **Monday, May 20th, 2024**. You can place your order by contacting Courtney Gougler at 610-914-5242 (call or text) or by email at bcgougler@gmail.com When ordering, please provide your name, contact number, and what you will be purchasing. Payment can be made at pick-up by cash or check (made out to VGCS). We look forward to seeing you!

When: Sunday, June 2, 2024

Time: 11-2 p.m.

Where: Virginville Grange Hall (Main Street, Virginville, PA 19564)

What: Krispy Kreme Donuts (dozen) - \$10.00

Farm Show Milkshakes (vanilla, chocolate, twist) - 16 oz - \$6.00

Pork BBQ Meal (pulled pork sandwich with roll, bbq sauce, chips, & applesauce) - \$11.00

As always, please let us know of any groups or individuals that could benefit from our help.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Kenneth Schlegel

Why open the same can of worms?

Read it in the paper last month, a group of people and some politicians revisited the property tax situation again. They said some leaders are residents in the Wyomissing area were responsible for calling the meeting! The biggest problem they said needed attention of the people being forced out of homes and I could add that even farmers never know how they are going to pay taxes if they are forever increasing!

I've been saying for years it doesn't matter which party is in charge, they don't have the guts or the smarts to tackle the issue. There you spindle the two party blaming game on it!!

Didn't mention new money to ease the burden. One thing I've been mentioning sports betting is bringing in high bucks! Another issue is skill games. They're more popping up everyday! There are thousands of skill games in Pennsylvania, and our law makers will figure out how to reap the benefits! I didn't even touch on past plans for money! New money is a big thing for people like a governor, because they can offer new programs! They say it makes them popular!

So Mr. Governor, by "Executive Order", lets try this create an Escape Room in Harrisburg and lock all our legislators and maybe 7 or 8 number crunchers up in this room and the only way the doors will open is when they come up with a plan! I bet the governor will become a hero then!

I hope to see a representative from each grange at our next Legislative/Agricultural meeting on June 26, at Ontelaunee starting at 7:30 P. M.

Family Activities

Spring is here and summer just around the corner. There are many flowers blooming, more colorful birds at the bird feeders, the grass is green, and warmer weather. These are just a few of the things God gave to us, plus many more. So, let's enjoy them.

A special project this year is walker organizers to donate to hospitals and Nursing Homes. Please bring them to the June Pomona meeting.

We are collecting egg cartons again to give to food pantries. If you have some and want to get rid of them, please bring them to the June Pomona. I will see that the egg cartons get to the food pantries. The summer months are when they get a lot of eggs donations.

Berks County Pomona Grange is holding a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Sunday, September 1, 2024. The Pomona Family Activities Committee is planning to sell baked goods and pepper cabbage at the BBQ for a fundraiser again this year. We need volunteers to help on the day of the event. We are also asking each grange to donate 4 or 5 baked goods (pies or cakes). There are many great bakers in the grange, so share your talent and volunteer to bake something for the Pomona Family Activities.

The Pomona Family Activities committee still have the 150th State Grange Anniversary cookbooks. The cost is \$25.00. If you are interested in one, please contact me (610-562-2647) and arrangements can be made to get it.

There are many contests under the Family Activities committee for everyone. I would like to see each grange in Berks Country have an entry this year in the contest and hope we can increase the numbers of entries from last year, which was 48 entries. Everyone can help make it happen by working on an entry for your Subordinate Grange. If you need the complete contests list and rules, you can contact your Subordinate Grange Family Activities chairperson or contact me and I will see you get the rules. Please read and follow the rules for the contests, because I don't want you to make something and it has to be disqualified because of wrong size or not following the rules. If you have any questions about a rule, please contact me.

The date for the 2024 Family Activities Contest Pomona baking and needlework/craft judging will be September 7, 2024 at the Pomona meeting being held at Virginville Grange. The first placed winners will go to State Grange in October for judging.

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. Please support the State Grange Family Activities by purchasing a raffle ticket. The Subordinate Grange chairperson or secretary should have tickets. I will also have tickets at the Pomona meeting in June. If you are interested in purchasing some tickets and cannot attend Pomona, you can contact me and we can make some arrangements.

The next Berks County Family Activities committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. before our regular Pomona meeting at Ontelaunee Grange. Please come with some suggestions for new or different projects and fundraisers. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

FLEETWOOD GRANGE STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

Date: Friday, June 14, 2024

Time: 4—9 p.m.

What: Food, Strawberries & Ice Cream, Baked Goods

Music: The Happy Dutchman Band

Also: Lots of Chinese Auction items

POMONA LOTTERY CALENDARS by Michael Adams

I want to THANK everyone that sold or bought the 500 Pomona Lottery Calendars for March and April of 2024! I will have a report of the profit at the June Pomona meeting.

SEPTEMBER CHICKEN BBQ

The Berks County Grange will be hosting a Kauffman Chicken BBQ on Sunday, September 1 from 11am-2pm, this is Labor Day weekend, at the Ontelaunee Grange Hall. A ticket will cost \$13 and the meal will consist of a half chicken, baked potato, roll, applesauce, and a bottle of water. The Family Activities committee is planning to hold a bake sale and selling pepper cabbage.



We are asking Grange members to sell tickets and we are offering the incentive of 1 free ticket for every 15 tickets sold. We know that it may be hard for members to sell tickets, depending on the location. We are suggesting that you sell tickets, pick up the dinners, and then set up a time and location closer to your customers.

The tickets will be distributed at the June Pomona Grange meeting. The tickets will be distributed to the presidents, but if you have trouble getting tickets, please contact the committee members for tickets after the June Pomona meeting.

Committee members; Michael Adams 610-562-5933

Nettie Kauffman 610-926-5389

Fern Kulp 610-401-6458

Henry Seidel 610-223-1082

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR TICKET SALES WILL BE SUNDAY AUGUST 11th!!

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, by Debra Kieffer

Happy Spring everyone, it is a little soggy as I write this. But the spring flowers are blooming, and trees are budding. Before we know it there will be warmer days upon us. For our June program we will hopefully have our new Dairy Princess & Little Miss as our program. I already have them booked so let's show our support to these young people as they help support our dairy industry.

OLEY FAIR SOUP STAND

Volunteers Needed! Mark your calendars for the Oley Fair which will be held on September 19-21, 2024.

We will again be manning the Soup Stand and if we have more volunteers than work, people can help in other areas. The stand is open from 9AM to 10PM and we ask that people sign up for 2 or more hours at a time. Parking passes will be provided and anyone interested in helping can call or email Henry Seidel at 610-223-1082 or hlseidel@aol.com.

A sign up sheet will be available at the June and September meetings.

Going as a group out to eat after Pomona Meeting.

Place: Crossroad Family Restaurant

Address: 4643 Pottsville Pike, Reading, Pa. 19605 (Tuckerton)

Approximately 7 minutes, 3.5 miles from the grange

Type of Restaurant: American Cuisine (Salads, Burgers, sandwiches, wraps, full meals, etc.)

Time: After Pomona, around 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Cost: Each person will pay their own bill.

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

POMONA HIGHLIGHTS

The following are highlights from the March 2, 2024, Pomona meeting that was held at by Marion Grange. Remember, it is always better to be at the meeting to give your input and find out information first hand.

- ◆ National Grange is looking into make the 7th Degree more streamlined and less costly to put on. They are also looking to make changes for the 1st through 4th Degrees.
- ◆ National Grange building has been sold
- ◆ Photo contest categories changed. If questions, check with your Program Coordinator.
- ◆ Attendance: 13 Brothers; 20 Sisters; 1 Mini-Junior Total: 34
- ◆ Tax filing for 2023 was completed
- ◆ Newsletter will now be printed by JDM Printing in Myerstown
- ◆ Encouraging members to get newsletter by email (if possible). If members are not interested in getting the newsletter, they should notify Fern Kulp (610-401-6458) or your local grange secretary to pass the information onto Fern.
- ◆ Donated \$500 to Kutztown Fair
- ◆ Donate \$700 to Berks County Fair
- ◆ Nettie represented Pomona at the recent BARN meeting
- ◆ Berks Heim Sunday transport. It was suggested that granges might want to contact local school to see if any groups would like to help (or students who might need volunteer hours to fulfill).
- ◆ As of February 17, 2024, the membership in the county stands at 926
- ◆ Donated \$75 to the Berks County Dairy Promotion event
- ◆ Andrew Kieffer, Henry Seidel and Ray Davis will be Pomona's representatives for the Penn State Board of Trustees Caucus/Election
- ◆ PA young Patrons & Youth Royalty presented a St. Patrick's Day program

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Carlene Kleckner

Hi everyone. Hope you all are doing well.

Like to give a big THANK YOU to all that brought items for the Humane Society of Berks County.

For the June meeting, we are collecting Diapers to donate to Mary's Shelter. Please bring any sized diapers and also you can bring wipes

too. Hope you all have a nice Spring.



LET'S SAVE POMONA MONEY!

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

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

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

Thanks for your consideration.

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

Tip: Here are some ideas that you can use items that you have around the house: (by Jane Reppert)

Dental Floss - Feed the birds: Lure feathered friends into your yard with a tasty garland. Thread a needle with unflavored waxed floss and string popcorn, cereal, or dried fruit onto it, then hang from a tree.

Plastic jugs – mini shovel: Turn empty gallon and half-gallon drink containers into handy mini-shovels—perfect for pet food. Gardening or even drifting snow away from car tires. Start with a clean, dry container positioned upright with the cap on. Use scissors to pole two holes: one about 2” below the handle, another on the opposite side an inch or two lower. Cut from hole to hole around the container crate an angled opening, then discard the bottom of the jug and trim away any jagged edges.

Toothpaste - Grass stains: Summer is the season of grass stains. To remove grass stains from clothing, brush some white non gel toothpaste into the stain with an old soft toothbrush, then rinse and launder in the usual way.

Coffee Filters – clean glass: Wipe down windows, mirrors, and eyeglasses with coffee filters, they won't leave behind lint.

Tea – Keep plants healthy: Give potted houseplants a boost by burying leaves from used tea bags just below the surface. Tea contains small amounts of nitrogen, which acts as a fertilizer. As you water the plant, the nutrients in the tea will transfer to the soil.

Tea – wash cookware: Fill a dirty pot or pan with hot water and drop in a few used tea bags to soak overnight. Tea's tannic acid helps lift off grease so cleaning is easy.

Fabric Softener Sheets – Use them to polish faucets and mirrors.

Widowed Socks – Slip one over your hand to use as a waxing, dusting or shoe-polish mitt.

Quotes:

A true friend is someone who is there for you even when he'd rather be anywhere else.

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

VIRGINVILLE GRANGE

MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET

Sunday, May 12, 2024

\$18 for adults; \$9 for children, ages 5—10

Tax included

Ham, Turkey, Filling, Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Pepper Cabbage, Lettuce & Bacon Dressing, Applesauce, Roll.

Beverage & dessert included.

Reservation required—call Jen Berger, 610-823-4813 (deadline was May 1)

CONTEST CORNER

NAME _____ GRANGE _____

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

By the time you get this spring will be winding down and summer soon to start. How well do you know your Roman Numerals?

1. What is the year (2024)? A. MMXXIV B. MCV C. MML
2. What year was the Grange founded? A. MCVII B. MDCCCLXVII C. DCCXVII
3. How many days are there in a year? A. CCCLXV B. MVX C. CDXV
4. We are Pomona Grange #43... A. XXXXIII B. XVI C. XLIII
5. What number is CDLXIX? A. 526 B. 469 C. 973
6. The next Super Bowl will be? A. LV B. LXIII C. LIX
7. Pomona meets in March + June + September + December which totals?
 A. XXX B. XXL C. LXV
8. What is the Roman Numeral for 99? A. LXXXXV B. LCVIII C. XCIX
9. Christmas is 12-25... A. XVX.L B. XII.XXV C. CXV.XV
10. The bicentennial was in 1976... A. MCMLXXVI B. MMCXXVI C. CDMXXV

Answers from March: 1. False, 2. 90 Million, 3. Red, 4. 16 Million, 5. 1878, 6. True, 7. Palm Sunday, 8. 12, 9. Ukraine, 10. Moon, 11. True, 12. PA, 13. Red, 14. Fall, 15. FL Winner-Mike Adams Hamburg/Kutztown Grange

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