

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

MAY 2021

COMMENTS FROM YOUR COUNTY GRANGE PRESIDENT

Nettie A. Kauffman

It is a much pleasant atmosphere at this time of the year compared to when our last POMONA ECHO was delivered to our homes in February. I believe at the time you received your newsletter, we were dealing with the snowfall of February 2. I won't forget this day because I needed to be in the hospital for a hip replacement. A call from the doctor the previous night indicated the surgery will take place no matter what! It was an experience getting me to the hospital with roads not being plowed in our development. This is one experience I will never forget!

So much has occurred in our society in the past several months and the situation with Covid-19 is still impacting our lives. Our Granges are slowly getting back to meeting with some changes on how they conduct their meetings, but some are still not meeting in their halls. The social distancing is still a concern, especially now since an up-surge in the virus is impacting our lives again. With the implementation of vaccines increasing, we hope to be able to get back to some of our regular activities, but not too fast.

I know there are several Granges who are doing fundraisers via drive-by or pick-ups at their halls. These are great activities and keeping your Grange noticed within your community. Getting your members to help; be it either with preparation, securing orders or calling your members to either purchase or ask them to obtain orders for your Granges' specific fundraiser. This is also one way to reconnect with your membership. One activity I know that a lot of our members look forward to each year is the All Granger Picnic at Edenburg Park in Hamburg. I am the bearer of bad news at this time. It was decided to cancel this activity again. Several reasons are: 1. The Coordinator, Cindy (Pensinger) Schlegel, who headed this activity for the last 26 years, has asked to be relieved of this responsibility due to work commitments. We need to THANK Cindy for a job well done and appreciate her time and efforts for this activity. If you would be interested, please get in touch with me and we can discuss (continued page 5)

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GRANGE WEBSITE:

berkscountygrange.org

IF YOU WANT INFORMATION POSTED ON THE WEBSITE:

Contact Jennifer Beamon at

jennifermarie707@gmail.com

Berks County Junior Grange News

County Camp

Camp is May 14-16. We will have an "un-themed" camp and focus on having the juniors back together for socially distanced fun!

Coronation will be held at Camp Swatara on the 16th. We will begin promptly at 2pm. Due to COVID -19, we may be limiting attendance. Please watch Facebook for updates or reach out directly to Gail.

Thanks to all that supported the Walk-A-Thon Fund-raiser in 2020 to help make camp possible for our Juniors!

Jr. Team Meeting

Our Next team meeting is July 5, 7pm— Either Virtual or at Ontelaunee Grange. Please feel free to join our meetings.

2020 Junior Attendance Contest

1 activity and 1 fundraiser

Rebecca Berger, Bryce Davis, Clayton Davis, Samantha Davis, Tyler Davis, Julie Eisenhower, Logan Eisenhower, Mackenzie Gougler, Zachary Gougler, Brayden Heckman, Ava Jenkins, Owen Kutz, Kendra Roman, Carisa Schaeffer, Ellie Schroeder, Jacob Schroeder, Emma Seidel, Jaxon Seidel, Alexis Servin, Connor Servin, Chloe Shealer, Cooper Shealer, and Avery Tworkoski

Walk-a-Thon

The juniors participated in their Walk-a-Thon at Ontelaunee on April 17. The winners of laps will be announced at camp coronation. The juniors took the royalty test and enjoyed long-awaited fellowship with their Grange friends.



Upcoming Announcements

There will be a junior activity during the June and September Pomona meetings!

2021 Junior Attendance Contest

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

- ◇ County Camp (May 14-16)
- ◇ June Pomona Meeting (June 5)
- ◇ Knoebels (June 17)
- ◇ State Camp (June 27 - July 3)
- ◇ Swimming (July 10, 6-9pm)
- ◇ September Pomona (September 11)
- ◇ Fall Activity (September 25, activity TBD)
- ◇ Bowling (November 28, 1:30)

Hope to see you all at a lot of events!

State Camp News!

State camp is June 27th through July 3rd. There are many juniors, youth, and adults that attend from Berks County. Please consider sending your 7 year old (by January 1, 2021). Contact Gail if you would like to be on a carpool list.

Knoebels will be on Thursday, June 17. As soon as more information becomes available, it will be posted on Facebook and discussed at upcoming events (camp coronation and Pomona)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY—JULY 2021

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

May 9 MOTHER'S DAY

May 9 2021 State Session Meeting @Gouglersville, 2:00 p.m.

May 10 County Officers & Departmental Chair Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7:00 p.m.

May 14-16 Berks County Junior Grange Camp, Camp Swatara

May 15 ARMED FORCES DAY

May 23 Pomona –Go-to-Church Sunday, 10:30 a.m. *

May 24 Pre-Quarterly, Presidents/Family Activities @Bernville, 7 p.m.



June 5 County Meeting, 9:30 a.m. @Bernville Grange**

June 6 Virginville Grange "Dairy Month" Drive Thru event (see article for further details)

June 7 Pioneer Grange Italian Hoagie Sale***

June 13 2021 State Session Meeting @Gouglersville, 2:00 p.m.

June 14 FLAG DAY

June 17 Knoebel's (will be discussed further on Facebook and discussed at upcoming events)

June 20 FATHER'S DAY

June 20 ALL GRANGER PICNIC —CANCELLED

June 27—July 3 PA Junior Grange Camp, Camp Sylvan Hills, Howard, PA

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 5 Junior Grange Team Meeting @Ontelaunee, 7:00 p.m.

July 9 ECHO deadline

July 10 County Swim Party @Shoemakersville Pool, 6 to 9 p.m.

July 11 2021 State Session Meeting @Gouglersville, 2:00 p.m.

July 15-18 Grange Family Festival, Centre County Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, PA

July 17 State Talent Contest @Family Festival, 7:00 p.m.

July 26 Collate ECHO @Ontelaunee, 3:15 p.m. (Hamburg assists)



August 2 Pioneer Grange Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sale****

*Mohrsville Church of the Brethren, 1542 Shoey Road, Mohrsville, PA 19541. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.; church service, 10:30 a.m.

**Bernville Grange will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary during the June 5 Pomona meeting. Plan to attend and support their 100th Anniversary.

***Pioneer: Italian Hoagie, \$5 per sandwich. Pickup at the grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call orders to Tammy at 610-463-7213 by May 30th

****Pioneer: Sandwich sale, \$3.50 per sandwich. Pickup at the grange hall from 3—5 p.m. Call orders to Tammy at 610-463-7213 by July 25.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES by Jane Reppert

Spring is here. The grass is green, trees have leaves, and the flowers are adding many colors the outdoor scenes. Farmers are in their fields and many people in the home gardens. There is a sign that we can get outside and do some activities.

I hope everyone is still doing well during the pandemic. We never thought it was going to last this long. I hope you were working on some special projects around the house or on entries for the Family Activities Contest during this time. 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. Please read and follow the rules, 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.

A special project we are doing for this quarter is collecting egg cartons (12 or 18 ct.). The cartons can be the foam or the cardboard ones. So, don't throw them in the trash, bring them to Pomona on June 5th or give them to someone who is coming to Pomona. The cartons will then be donated to food pantries in the area. When the food pantries get donations of eggs, they come in the big crates and they have to divide them in smaller cartons to give them out. So, you can help by recycling and we can help the food pantries.

The tentative dates for the 2021 Family Activities Contest Pomona judging are listed below:

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

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

The Subordinate Grange chairpersons will be notified if there is a change in the dates.

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 and I will have some. If you are interested in purchasing some tickets and cannot attend Pomona, you can contact me and we can make some arrangements.

Berks County Pomona Grange is holding a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Sunday, September 5th, 2021. The Pomona Family Activities Committee is planning to sell baked goods and maybe pepper cabbage at the BBQ for a fundraiser. I do need someone to take charge of this project and other people to volunteer to help on the day of the event. If you are interested in chairing the project or volunteering to help, please contact me. We, also, will be asking each grange to donate 4 or 5 baked goods. We will have more information after the pre-Pomona meeting.

Marie Schaeffer has resigned as secretary for the Pomona Family Activities committee. I would like to thank her for the many years and great job that she did as secretary. However, we are in need of a volunteer to be secretary for the Pomona Family Activities committee. The minutes that you will have to take is at the pre-Pomona quarterly meetings.

If you plan to attend the next per-Pomona meeting on May 24th at Bernville Grange, please bring along a cloth napkin along if you have one. We will be trying to fold them in different ways, so you can impress your friend at a dinner when you can start getting together again.

I hope everyone will stay healthy and that we can soon be back to some kind of normal life again.

POMONA LOTTERY CALENDARS

I want to Thank everyone that sold and bought lottery calendars for the Pomona Grange fundraiser. Unfortunately, only 494 were sold, but I was really glad they were sold, considering the Covid situation. If any of the six calendars not sold had a winning number, they might be available for purchase at the June Pomona meeting.

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.

YOUTH REPORT by Erica Berger

The Youth/Young Adults will be running the June Pomona meeting this year. The beginning of May a sign-up sheet for offices will be posted on the Youth Facebook page.



VIRGINVILLE GRANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE

Happy Spring to all! As the days get longer and the weather gets nicer the Virginville Grange Community Service Committee will be holding another drive thru fundraising event. This time we will be celebrating "Dairy Month". We will be supporting the potato growers of PA and the dairy farmers. If you missed being able to go to the farm show this year this drive thru is for you! We will be selling sweet treats found at the farm show. See below for all the information you need! We hope to see you there.

When: Sunday, June 6th, 2021

Time: 11-2 p.m.

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

What: Farm Show powdered donuts (dozen) - \$9.00

Farm Show milkshakes (vanilla, chocolate, twist) 16 oz. - \$5.00

Smokey Bear BBQ (1/3 pound pulled pork sandwich with roll, bbq sauce, chips, & applesauce) - \$8.00

Orders are due by **Monday, May 24th**. You can place your order by contacting Courtney Gougler (610-914-5242)/ bcbgougler@gmail.com. When ordering please provide your name, contact number, and what sweets you will be purchasing. Payment can be made at pick-up. We look forward to seeing you!

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

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS (continued from page 1)

the responsibilities. 3. With the Covid-19 situation still having an impact on our lives, and we would be having a buffet lunch meal where everyone utilizes the same utensils in the covered dish area, it is with the safety of not spreading any type of germs from one person to another. As we go forward, we will be discussing this topic at our June Pomona meeting on what should take place in the future for the All Granger Picnic.

Another committee which I am seeking a chairperson or co-chairpersons for is the Trip Committee. The committee that handled trips for many years has decided to retire. I know they all did an excellent job of getting our membership to various areas of our United States as well as some cruises. I would like to thank this committee for a "job well done."

A notice was sent to all Subordinate Presidents seeking some volunteers to help with the presentation of the First and Second Degrees at the upcoming annual State Session. Please be advised that these degrees will not be presented by Berks and Chester/Delaware counties due to the lack of volunteers to help with the presentations.

Up-coming activities for the next quarter will be mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope our membership will participate in them. As we meet for our June meeting, the Youth Department will be filling the officer's stations and will conduct the meeting.

AGRICULTURE REPORT by Doug Sattazahn

Have you noticed farm fields covered in lush green grass in early spring? Chances are those fields are rye, wheat, or a hybrid of the two called triticale. These grasses are cereal grains, hearty crops with many different uses. Dairy farmers will soon mow, chop and store these as fermented feed for their animals. Crop farmers will let the plants mature to harvest a grain crop in summer. Another option is to roll these crops or kill them with herbicide, providing a "green fertilizer" for the subsequently planted corn or soybeans.



Rye, wheat, triticale, and barley are planted in the fall, establishing a dense root mass that keeps soil from eroding in winter. The farming term for this is "cover crop" since the ground has a cover over it during the non-growing season. Growing cereal grains is often part of a "double crop" system where two crops are grown in one year on the same field.

Hopefully this information helps you understand the value of these versatile crops to farmers.

News from Berks Heim (as reported by the Volunteer/Clerical Director Ann Gilmer)

As of April 13 Berks Heim is not in the critical stages of Covid. However, they follow strict guidelines from the CDC which states they must have no positive cases for a two week period before the residents can again have scheduled 30-minute visits with family and friends. Also the County must be under a 10% rate of positive cases for visiting to return.

Just before Easter they reached the status of no Covid for two weeks and reopened for restricted visits but by the end of the first day there was a positive test. Presently they are allowing scheduled 30-minute visits outside at tables and chairs set up in the upper parking lot for residents that are on a green unit. The units are coded Red, Yellow, and Green. Red means no visits allowed, yellow is possible visits and green is ok for visiting.

There are no large group activities which includes church services. Chaplains are there on a daily basis for the residents. Activity Therapists do one-on-one visits in the resident's room.

The Administrator Terry Brennan has recently retired and was replaced by Christie Kennedy, who has been there for several months shadowing Mr. Brennan. Terry will leave the facility at the end of April.

Ann reported that some of the residents are not understanding the "no visiting" rule. When family arrives for a scheduled 30 minute visit it is quite a touching scene when the resident is brought down to the front entrance by staff and they see each other for the first time in a very long time.

Please pray for the residents and staff at Berks Heim, it is a very difficult time for everyone.

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE FUNDRAISER

September BBQ

The Berks County Grange is doing a Chicken BBQ on Sunday, September 5 at Leesport Farmer's Market from 11am-2pm, this is Labor Day weekend. The meal will consist of a half chicken, baked potato, roll, applesauce, and a bottle of water. The chicken will be done on an open-pit charcoal grill done by Two Guys Chicken. Each meal will cost \$10 (\$11 at the door). The Family Activities committee is planning to hold a bake sale.



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, because of the distance to Leesport. We are suggesting that you sell tickets, pick up the dinners, and then set up a time and location closer to your customers.

We will distribute the tickets at the June Pomona meeting. I am asking the Presidents to get a count from their members for how many tickets they need. Please let them know or you can contact the committee members for tickets.

Committee members; Michael Adams 610-562-5933

Nettie Kauffman 610-926-5389

Fern Kulp 610-401-6458

Henry Seidel 610-678-6366

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR TICKET SALES IS SUNDAY AUGUST 15!!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Ken Schlegel

Congress –supposedly, people elected to run the country. I just read recently that there are too many Democratic congressmen and women and too many Republican congressman and women and not enough U.S.A. congress people! People leaving the polls in some areas were polled and 75% believe we should have term limit –but that’s never going to happen! Power and Hatred that is what runs Congress!

Some points to ponder!

Democrats have passed a gun bill which is now in a Senate Committee. It recommends a 50% increase on ammo, that’s an issue!

In the bill, every gun owner must purchase an \$800 insurance policy yearly.

Plus there are other issues like a fee for gun registration!

Judiciary Committee just offered an amendment that requires ICE is notified when an illegal immigrant tries to purchase a firearm. Dems voted no. So the Democrats just admitted they have no problem with people having guns as long as they are not American citizens that are working class.

The House just passed a \$1.9 million infrastructure bill – but only 6% goes to fix roads and bridges.

The billionaire Warren Buffet owes the railroad and railroad lines that currently ship oil from Canada to the Midwest and Texas. They are charged \$30 a barrel. The Keystone pipeline (which President Biden shut down would only cost \$10 a barrel.) Buffet is a big Democratic supporter. If the pipeline was completed, his company would lose \$2 billion a year.

Just remember, all those electric cars would not pay gas tax which is supposed to be used to fix roads and bridges. But I’m sure they will think of another tax to take its place.

COORDINATOR’S CORNER by Deanna A. Schrawder

Welcome to 2021 and what it has to bring to us. Hoping and praying that we can slowly return to normalcy in our lives. Please bear with me as this is the first time I am writing an article for the Grange.

Still following state guidelines , some of the Granges across the board are starting to do fundraisers without the need to be together, such as sandwich sales and take out fundraisers.

I think the most important part of each Grange is to do what they can to keep their Grange working and still maintaining the guidelines made by the State.

As we begin 2021, there is no shortage of challenges facing legislators and Pennsylvania agriculture. Such as increase funding, support conservation and address hunger to name a few.

Let us ban together and keep up the good fight and work to make the State Grange profitable and bountiful.

2021 STATE SESSION

We are encouraging every Grange to send at least 1 representative to all our meetings at the Gouglersville Grange, when possible. We meet the 2nd Sunday of the month thru 2021, they are scheduled 6/13, 7/11, 9/12, and 10/10. We might have to change some meetings here and there and I will try to keep everyone informed concerning changes.

Jane Birk, the Door Prize chairperson, is looking for 2 quality gifts or gift cards from Pennsylvania retailers from each Grange or any individuals that would like to donate to be used at the State Session. You can contact Jane at 610-657-7668 or jdbirk_2000@yahoo.com with any questions.

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

GRANGERS CONTRIBUTION TO 2021 PA STATE SESSION

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

GOLD LEVEL – (\$1,000)

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

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

SILVER LEVEL – (\$500.00)

For a \$500.00 contribution, you will receive:

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

BRONZE LEVEL – (\$250.00)

For a \$250.00 contribution, you will receive;

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

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



COMMUNITY SERVICE by Carlene Kleckner

Hi everyone. Hope you all are having a good spring and are staying healthy I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all that brought food and donated money to Greater Harvest.

For the June meeting we are going to donate to the ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE. If you can, bring:

Canned or dry cat food	dog food	any used towels or new towels		
Paper towels	computer paper	Kitty litter	cat treats	dog treats



POMONA HIGHLIGHTS

The following are highlights from the March 6, 2021, Pomona meeting that was held at Gouglersville Grange.

- ◆ There was no December Pomona meeting due to the Coronavirus
- ◆ Executive committee took action on several items: Officer Bonding, ECHO mailing, approving various expenses (since the September 2020 meeting)
- ◆ Check to make sure your Grange is incorporated. This must be done every 10 years.
- ◆ If your Grange wishes to take advantage of the pandemic money, contact the State Grange office
- ◆ Attendance: 11 Brothers, 17 Sisters, 0 Juniors = total 28
- ◆ Ken Schlegel reported that the PA Governor is working to legalize marijuana and taxing two bridges in PA
- ◆ Discussed the September 5 Chicken BBQ (article included in this ECHO giving details)
- ◆ Kutztown Fair and Berks Fair (Reading) planning to hold their event this year. Berks Fair is planning to hold a bingo in July at the fairgrounds
- ◆ BARN—meetings have been held virtual and they will be holding an AG Contest for high school students
- ◆ Grace Reber reported that the Berks Heim asked the Volunteer services to purchase some items for the facility
- ◆ Nettie Kauffman reported that they are looking for a new person/new people to chair the Tour Committee
- ◆ Michael Adams reported that as of this time, a full State Session is planned for 2021 in Valley Forge, PA (see article for further details)
- ◆ Membership in the county stands at 1,020 (as of 2/27/21)
- ◆ Received “thank you” note from PA State Grange Youth Director for 2020 donation
- ◆ Received “thank you” and donation of \$300 from the Oley Fair
- ◆ Approved—donate \$500 to Kutztown Fair
- ◆ Approved—donate an additional \$250 to Berks Fair (they already have \$750 from 2020 donation)
- ◆ Approved—donation of \$100 to each: PA State Youth, State Juniors and State Deaf & Community Service Department
- ◆ Donated \$150 to Dairy Princess Pageant
- ◆ Farm Family Appreciation Celebration cancelled in 2020 and 2021. Funds to be held over for the 2022 banquet
- ◆ Nomination of Officers: Richard Schaeffer for Executive Committee. No nominations for Finance Committee.
- ◆ Berks County Fair Farm Family: Grange is struggling to find a grange farm family. Suggestions were given to work with other farm organizations.
- ◆ Robert Sattazahn, Andrew Kieffer and Henry Seidel will represent the Berks County Pomona Grange at the caucus on April 14 (Penn State Board of Trustees election)
- ◆ Received a request from Chester-Delaware Pomona to have Berks County members help with 1st and 2nd degree at 2021 State Session
- ◆ Candle-Lighting Ceremony for 150th Anniversary Kick-off: Seeking representatives to participate in ceremony. Banquet re-scheduled to September 18. Requesting more sponsorship of candles.
- ◆ Door prizes were awarded

CONTEST CORNER

NAME _____ **GRANGE** _____

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

TEST YOUR AMERICAN FLAG KNOWLEDGE

- 1) How many stars? _____
- 2) What color are the stars? _____
- 3) How many red stripes? _____
- 4) What color is the rectangle? _____
- 5) What do the stripes represent? _____
- 6) What does the rectangle represent? _____
- 7) Displaying big flags horizontally at a football game is? Against flag code OR totally fine
- 8) How should a flag be retired? _____
- 9) Do you have to retire the flag if it has touched the ground? _____
- 10) How many white stripes? _____
- 11) Why would a flag be retired? _____

Winner of December contest: Kenneth Schlegel, Fleetwood Grange

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BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43