



Plumsteadville Grange #1738

A good patron places FAITH in God, nurtures HOPE, dispenses CHARITY, and is noted for FIDELITY



Box 335, 5901 Easton Road (Rte 611), Plumsteadville, PA 18949 – www.plumsteadvillegrange.org

GRANGE MEETINGS

January 11, 2012 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall
- Program:** Presentation by Team Capital Bank

February 8, 2012 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall

COOKIE BAKING – MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 16 –

Grangers, F-H members and friends will gather in the Grange kitchen to bake cookies



to be sent to Mexico to give workers at the Discovery Project a “taste of home” during their volunteer service. Help is needed beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Please bring cookie dough and baking sheets.

Contact Annette Crooke 215-345-1276.

HELP NEEDED – FRANKLIN HORSE CO. DINNER



Saturday, January 28th – Help needed to prepare, serve and clean up.

Work begins at 10 a.m. for service at 6:00 p.m. Private dinners such as

this one help raise funds for Grange projects.

Contact Annette Crooke 215-345-1276.

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

JAMES E. DIAMOND, MASTER, PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE #1738

I am pleased to inform you that **Mr. Kevin O'Neil, Vice President, Team Capital Bank** will be visiting the Plumsteadville Grange Meeting on Wednesday, 11 January 2012 to give an overview of Team Capital Bank and the loan to replace the late Clarence Berger mortgage that has been approved for Plumsteadville Grange. All members are encouraged to attend this **important meeting to enable Mr. O'Neal to learn about Grange endeavors and to meet its members.**

May each Plumsteadville Grange member have a **HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I have eliminated the traditional “Prosperous” New Year because when you're healthy and happy, you are automatically prosperous.

My Resolution: During the new year of 2012, I hope and pray that I will not bring an unhappy tear to anyone's eye(s). When 2012 ends I want it to be said that I have been a friend that lived, loved and labored to make it a **happy year.**

BRAVO! BRAVO! BRAVO!

Grangers, 4-H'ers and their families and friends were treated to a very entertaining program at the annual Christmas potluck dinner & party.

Congratulations and a big Thank You to Meg Lomax and the cast and crew for a delightful performance!



Linda Ochoco of the Danboro 4-H reports the "reindeer and friends" sang Christmas carols and did the Reindeer Hokie Pokie for the residents of Heritage Towers – and they loved it!

PA GRANGE AT THE FARM SHOW

An informational meeting open to the public will be held Tuesday, January 10th, 1:00 p.m. featuring Mike Pechart, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Grangers will also be selling cookbooks and staffing the “Today’s Agriculture” booth –a new addition at the PA Farm Show demonstrating farming techniques and featuring live animals in a barn-like setting.



4-H members receive certificates recognizing their work at the Farm market during the 2011 season.

NEW LECTURER & POMONA NEEDED

The offices of Lecturer will be vacant as of January 2012. Members interested in taking on either office please contact Meg Lomax 215 766 9801.



GRANGE DUES – NOW PAYABLE

Membership solicitation letters have gone out. For the past several years, the state membership dues have been \$35 per member, but Plumsteadville Grange had kept their membership dues at \$30. However, the Executive Committee has decided to raise the dues to \$35 per member, as the Grange chapter can no longer afford to subsidize the extra \$5 as it has in the past. Dues are payable to “Plumsteadville Grange” and may be mailed to :
Jerry Krone,
295 S Dublin Pike,
Fountainville, PA 18923.



Quilters' group show off their “Rudolph Spirit” at their Christmas luncheon.

TEAM CAPITAL BANK, DOYLESTOWN BRANCH

Plumsteadville Grange #1738 is in the process of refinancing its mortgage for the property and real estate adjacent to the Grange Hall. After interviewing several community banks, the Grange Executive major fCommittee selected Team Capital Bank, Doylestown Branch to refinance the late Clarence Berger mortgage. Team Capital Bank nhas community banking offices in the Lehigh Valley, Doylestown and Newtown, Pennsylvania, and in Fair Hills, Flemington, Somerville and Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Each office has its own management team and locally based Board of Directors. We believe that locally based banks fill an important void that has been created through industry consolidation and the relentless growth of nationwide banking giants.

Team Capital Bank was organized in early 2005 by a group of prominent business leaders in Pennsylvania and New Jersey with its home office in Bethlehem. Built on the premise that relationship banking, delivered at the local level coupled with competitive products and customer service, Team Capital Bank is one of the faster growing de novo banks in the country. They provide a comprehensive set of financial services, including traditional retail and commercial banking products, mortgage banking and commercial lending.

FROM THE DESK OF MARGUERITE QUINN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 143RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Hunters No Longer Required to Wear Back Tags in the Field

Without farmland and hunters willing to allow hunters to hunt their property, there would be little to no hunting in Bucks County. I want to make you aware of a new change coming to state law regarding hunters wearing back tags.

Sportsmen and sportswomen in Pennsylvania soon will no longer have to worry about losing their back tags while hunting due to a new law expected to be signed soon that removes the requirement that they must wear them while hunting.

In doing this, Pennsylvania will join 48 other states in doing away with this requirement. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) initiated the change and noted that sportsmen often lose the tags while crawling through the brush or coming in contact with trees in the process of hunting.

This new law was designed to make hunting less complicated, improve license management by hunters and trappers, and limit the inconveniences and troubles associated with lost or misplaced licenses.

However, as landowners, you have the legal right to question a hunter and to ask for proof of his/her licensure. The law ensures that you can ask the hunter for proof of a license, which can easily be carried in a wallet.

If you have any questions on this law or any other state government issue please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached by calling my district office at (215) 489-2126, or e-mailing me at mquinn@pahousegop.com or through my Web site, www.RepQuinn.net.

QUILT RAFFLE – TICKETS STILL ON SALE

The women's committee has set a financial goal, in order to raffle off the quilt, but



raffle tickets sales have plummeted over the summer. As sales are far off from their goal, they have elected not to raffle the quilt until they have reached their goal. All grange members are welcome to sell raffle tickets, so your help would be appreciated. All proceeds are used around the grange facilities.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE FARM SHOW?

Farm Show visitors will notice a new addition to the Expo Hall (behind the Food Court). An exhibit in a full-size barn – Today's Agriculture – will showcase modern production practices used to efficiently and safely produce our food supply. The exhibit was developed PennAg Industries Association and supported by producers and agribusinesses.

WORLD MARKET ACCESS IS VITAL

LARRY STALCUP, CORN AND SOYBEAN DIGEST

For decades American growers have depended heavily on wheat exports. The U.S. is the world's largest wheat exporter and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) works to maintain wheat sales to some 100 countries. Exports are why the recent free trade agreements (FTAs) were welcomed with open arms. USW is promoting an FTA that will generate even more sales across the Pacific Rim and other Asian regions. Its board of directors recently passed a resolution supporting the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) FTA and is encouraging other countries to join the discussion. "We support a comprehensive TPP agreement that provides improved market access and includes ambitious language on 21st century trade issues," the resolution reads. "We also encourage Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia to join the TPP framework." USW notes that the Asia-Pacific region has long been a significant destination for U.S. wheat. In market year 2010-2011, the 21 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries imported more than 13.8 mmt of wheat, a \$4.1 billion value. The importance of the region to the global economy was highlighted at recent APEC meetings in Hawaii. Leaders from the U.S., Singapore, Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Australia, Peru, Malaysia and Vietnam provided a promising progress report on the ongoing TPP negotiations. At

the same time, Japan, Canada and Mexico announced their interest in joining the two-year-old talks, USW says, adding that, "U.S. wheat producers particularly welcome Japan's announcement and interest in joining the TPP." That's because Japan buys more than 10% of U.S. wheat exports.

DID YOU KNOW...

Cash Tolls on Turnpike to Climb Another 10 %

According to an article in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, drivers of passenger cars who make the same trek will pay \$30.80 traveling west and \$35.55 going east as a 10 percent increase in cash tolls -- the fourth in four years -- kicks in. Motorists who have E-ZPass are being spared any increase, as the turnpike commission continues to encourage use of the electronic toll collection method that is now in the vehicles of more than 60 percent of turnpike patrons. A cross-state trip with E-ZPass costs \$26.19 westbound and \$30.17 eastbound. The difference comes from the fact that eastbound motorists pay their first toll the Pennsylvania state line; westbound motorists pay their last toll at the Warrendale mainline plaza.

New Driver Law Begins

According to an article in the *Scranton Times*, a new state law aimed at improving the safety of teenagers behind the wheel began Tuesday, 27 December 2011. The law makes not wearing a seat belt a primary offense for a driver under 18 - meaning they can be stopped solely for that violation - and prohibits a new junior driver from transporting more than one passenger who is under 18 and not an immediate family member, unless accompanied by a parent.

Tractor Cabs: New Creature Comfort

TODAY'S TRACTOR IS NOT LIKE THE OLD FORD TRACTOR WITH THE FERGUSON SYSTEM THAT DR. DIAMOND DROVE AS A YOUNGSTER ON THE FARM IN FAYETTE COUNTY.

Tractor cabs have reached a whole new level of comfort. New models for 2012 incorporate the best features from home to your glass palace in the field.

You'll see redesigned control arms that move with the seat, touch-screen display consoles capable of streaming live video, heated seats that swivel,

remote vehicle-monitoring systems, automatic climate control, wireless internet, intelligent cab suspension, hookups for MP3s, USB ports and bluetooth technology - even a refrigerator under the seat to keep your drinks cold.

- Jodie Wehrspann, Farm Industry News

Genetic Improvement & Weather Woes

Weather conditions at planting and harvest seemed to plague farmers in 2011. Despite frustrating meteorological developments, Ohio State University (OSU) experts say continuous improvements in corn genetics and traits allowed producers to record impressive yields this year.

"Seed companies are screening hybrids and genetics on such a huge scale now that they are able to sort, screen and filter genetics that won't work under these conditions," says Peter Thomison, OSU Extension corn specialist and professor of horticulture and crop science. "The plant can now tolerate a number of stress conditions and still have phenomenal yield potential."

- Corn & Soybean Digest

NEWS RELEASE FROM NATIONAL GRANGE

LEADERS SAY PROPOSED REGULATIONS AGAINST TEEN FARM LABOR COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO AGRICULTURE, ENTIRE GENERATION

The National Grange recently took a stand against proposed regulations by the U.S. Dept. of Labor that would limit the ability of teenagers to assist in farming operations across the country, calling the proposal "destructive" to the agriculture industry. National Grange Legislative Director Nicole Palya Wood said the regulations take aim at many of the daily chores of rural youth and seek to drastically narrow the exemptions provided to these family farms by redefining farm ownership.

"With farming operations becoming more and more efficient and complex, this new language could leave many of our rural youth prohibited from the farms that are their heritage," Wood said Tuesday.

Ed Luttrell, president of the National Grange, America's oldest agriculture and rural America advocacy organization, said the proposed regulation

goes against the grain of the American values many Grange members hold dear.

"So many of us grew up on farms, and our parents and neighbors helped us learn work ethic by giving us the opportunity, when we proved ourselves ready, to have more and more responsibility," Luttrell said. "This proposed regulation is big government stepping in to tell us when a child is ready to learn the value of work and become a contributing member of their community based on age, not on maturity. American values and a good work ethic, start at a young age, and the lessons these kids learn even doing small chores are invaluable."

The regulation, Luttrell said, "will have a direct and detrimental impact to agriculture, and would further exacerbate one of the most serious problems we as a nation face: the failure to see value in hard work."

"In our organization, many, if not most, of our leaders learned our work ethic on the farm. Even though many of us chose not to become farmers directly, we learned everything about what it is to put in a full and hard day's work, to have accountability and to do a job with pride from our time on the farm," Luttrell said. "The idea to limit on farm employment for teens is destructive to not just the agriculture industry, not just specific farm families, but to their entire generation."

PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Members are reminded that Plumsteadville Grange is providing two yearly scholarships, of \$500 (now named the **Ellen Crooke Memorial Scholarship**) for Bucks County 4H members and Plumsteadville Grange members' children, one for agriculture based studies, and one for any study of choice. .



Students can reapply for study year 2 if they have maintained a grade point average of 2.5, but they will also compete with new students applying for year 1. Agriculture related students may apply in year 2 for a study of their choice. Students to apply to Plumsteadville Grange on a standard application form from the Extension Service. Application forms should be accompanied by a transcript of grades from school, an essay, and two letters of

recommendation. Application forms are available at Bucks County Co – operative Extension office. Address applications to: Plumsteadville Grange, Box 335, 5901 Easton Road, Plumsteadville, PA 18949. Contact Meg Lomax with queries on 215-766-9801.

The Plumsteadville Grange Executive Committee will be involved in the selection of students to receive scholarships.

GRANGE MEMBERS SICK OR IN DISTRESS

We the members of Plumsteadville Grange enjoy everything we do at the Grange, but it's just not the same without the presence of these good and faithful members. We hope our prayers are answered real soon. Please keep our bereaved families and our shut-in members in your prayers and thoughts.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – PHOTOS WANTED

Plumsteadville Grange has a long history of "giving back" in the form of service to our community and the world at large. I am compiling a scrapbook to be submitted to PA State Grange documenting our Grange's service activities during the Grange year (Aug 31, 2011–Sept 1, 2012). Please send photos & descriptions of group events and/or individual service to me at jdbirk_2000@yahoo.com, or call me at 610-866-0852. The PA State Grange receives funding from National Grange based on these submissions, and cash prizes are awarded for 1st thru 3rd places for Community Service.

The PA State Grange session serves as a gathering spot for various service projects, including collection of afghans for Ronald McDonald House and soda can tabs to benefit the Deaf – If you already donate can tabs through another group, we can still report this on behalf of our Grange. Visit www.pagrang.org for more info on all its community service projects – If anyone wishes to send any items, I will see that they make it to State session. –Jane Birk, Coordinator

OUR LORD'S PANTRY

Please continue to help our community with your donations of non-perishable food items. Items may be brought to the Grange at any time.



Meg Lomax is honored as Plumsteadville Grange's "2011 Granger of the Year" by Master Jim Diamond.

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Resolution for 2012

Invite a friend to a Grange meeting or event

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 1 - New Year's Day - Celebrate 2012!
- January 10-14 - Pennsylvania Farm Show
- January 11 - Plumsteadville Grange Meeting
- January 16 - MLK Day of Service - Cookie Baking
- January 28 - Franklin Horse Company Dinner
- February 2 - Groundhog Day
- February 8 - Plumsteadville Grange Meeting
- February 14 - Valentine's Day



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BOX 335, 5901 EASTON RD.

PLUMSTEADVILLE, PA 18949

WWW.PLUMSTEADVILLEGRANGE.ORG