



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

December 7 – Bucks Co. Pomona Grange, hosted by Plumsteadville Grange

- Quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas pot luck dinner followed by brief business meeting.
- Members and Friends encouraged to attend

December 10 – Christmas Dinner & Entertainment

- 6:30 – Covered dish pot luck at the Grange Hall
- Visit from Santa, Carol Singing & Entertainment
- Bring a friend – all are welcome!

NOTE: There will be NO Meeting on Dec. 14th

January 11, 2012 – Plumsteadville Grange

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

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

JAMES E. DIAMOND, MASTER, PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE #1738

It becomes my sad duty to report that Sister Helen B. Rockafellow died on 15 November 2011. She was



87 years of age and was preceded in death by her beloved husband W. Earl Rockafellow. Helen was a lifetime member of Tyro Hall Grange and demitted her membership to Plumsteadville Grange. Helen had four sons, William, George, John and James. She had worked as a clerk in the Bucks County Treasurers Office and was twice elected the Buckingham Township Tax Collector. Helen was born and raised on a farm, married a farmer and enjoyed gardening, homemaking and spending time with her family at their farm near Forest Grove.

NEW LECTURER NEEDED

The office of Lecturer will be vacant as of January 2012 after the resignation of Toni Kellers.

Plumsteadville Grange thanks Toni for the many, varied, interesting and informative programs she has introduced at meetings for the last 3 years. Members

interested in taking on the office 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.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for the meeting of November 2011 as recorded by Meg Lomax, secretary, are included in their entirety. Plumsteadville Grange #1738 met Wednesday 9th Nov, at 7:30 p.m. Present: Men 7, Women 9, Total 16.

Opening. The Grange opening ceremony was led by Overseer Don Steeley, followed by the roll call of officers and committee members. Minutes of the previous meeting of October 2011 were mailed with the monthly newsletter. A motion was approved to accept them (as written).

Program. Rob Schade Executive Director of Ignite Energy gave a power point presentation on choosing an alternative energy supplier to PECO, and how the Grange, or individual members, could make money by promoting the scheme. If anyone would like further information, or would like to change their energy supplier to Stream Energy Rob, contact is 215 962 0971., or access the web site at <http://highresultsolutions.mystreamenergy.biz>

Roll Call Of Officers. Overseer Don Steeley, Steward Scott Frye, Assistant Steward Don Moss, Secretary Meg Lomax, Treasurer Jim Lomax, Chaplain Tony Townsend, Ceres Ruth Steeley, Flora Jane Birk

Guests: Linda Kling from Ottsville

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Agriculture committee. A huge snow storm on Saturday 29th October felled many trees and cut off power to many areas from 2 to 5 days.

Farm Market: Meg Lomax reported on a successful season. The Market ended on Saturday October 29th with the huge snow storm. Vendors dressed in Halloween costume and had a fun time despite the weather. Myron Kressman from Traugers passed on his thanks to the Farm Market, especially Jim Lomax and Don Moss for selling their produce throughout the season. Income from vendors fees \$1014; Expenses \$1329.25 (Advertising, Entertainment, Helper); Balance from 2010: \$659; Balance at 10.29.11: \$343.75.

Snack Bar: Less profit made this year due to 3 days of rain at the fair. Gross takings: \$25,336, Expenses: \$12,730 Profit \$5,430 after taxes

Barn Restoration. Don Moss will reconnect an outside light to the barn

Treasury Report. Income: \$2,488.17 Expenses: \$4,636.46

OLD BUSINESS: Don Moss reported from the Executive Committee:

Mortgage on Grange Apartments. Several banks had been investigated and quotes given for setting up a mortgage loan on the apartments, due to the death of Clarence Berger, who held the previous loan. Team Capitol in Doylestown offered the best terms at 4.5% for the first 5 years, to pay off in 8 years. The Committee recommended moving the Grange accounts from Wells Fargo to Team Capitol Bank. A motion was moved, seconded and approved to negotiate the loan with Team Capitol and move the Grange accounts there.

Trash collection. Allied Waste will be informed that after December 31st the Grange will no longer need their services for trash collection. This will save \$158 per month.

Grange dues will be raised this year from \$30 to \$35 and \$70 for family membership. Letters are being

dispatched soon so please pay promptly to avoid the expense of further letters of reminder.

Meg Lomax reported that the memorial for Connie Coleman on October 22d at Buckingham Trinity Church was a fitting tribute to her full life. A concert was held followed by a dinner prepared by church and Grange members that enabled Alan, her husband, to thank the community for all the help and care they gave to him and Connie throughout her illness.

Heritage Quilt block. A design has been chosen for the block which will be mounted on the Grange building as a memorial to the 4 Grange members who died this fall. Don Moss has agreed to construct it and Natalie Carabetta to paint the design.

State Grange Annual meeting report was written in the November newsletter. Jane Birk was Plumsteadville Grange's representative. She enjoyed the experience and encourages members to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Doug Reilly motioned that the Grange/4H scholarship should be renamed the Ellen Crooke memorial scholarship. Ellen was a very active 4H and Grange member and this would be a fine tribute to her, and an inspiration to future 4H scholarship applicants. The motion was seconded and approved. Meg Lomax will inform Nancy Stephenson at the Cooperative Extension.

It was approved that Jane Birk would purchase a new easel for use when draping the charter at an estimated cost of \$25. Jane would also like members to consider purchasing a display cabinet to display historical materials and documents which are at the moment piled haphazardly in the store room. She has also offered to correlate a scrap book to document for State Grange, all our community service work during the coming year, and asked for information and photographs to be sent to her.

Doug Reilly reported that Veterans ID cards are being issued by the Court House. These will enable veterans to obtain discounts from various companies. There will be a veterans' breakfast on Saturday 12th Oct at Plumsteadville Christian School.

Wednesday 7th December, 6.30pm at Plumsteadville Grange is the covered dish meeting for Pomona, followed by the business meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Saturday 10th December, 6.30pm is the annual Christmas party. It takes the form of a pot luck dinner followed by entertainment and carol singing. Members with surnames A to L are asked to bring a savory dish and M to Z a dessert. Ham and drinks will be provided by the Grange. Please RSVP Meg Lomax at 215 766 9801 with names and ages of children who will attend, so that Santa Claus is prepared.

It was recommended that care packages be delivered at Christmas to once active members who can no longer attend meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Meg Lomax, Secretary

CHRISTMAS IN POLAND

THE PISZEK/EVANS/DIAMOND AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE, DOYLESTOWN AND UNIVERSITY OF PODLAZIE, SIEDLCE, POLAND HAS COMPLETED FIVE VERY SUCCESSFUL STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCHANGES AND IS NOW PLANNING ITS SIXTH YEAR OF EXCHANGES. PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE MASTER JIM DIAMOND WAS THE FOUNDER OF THIS UNIQUE PROGRAM AND FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF CHRISTMAS IN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

Traditionally, Advent is an important season in the Polish year, with special church services, known as **Roraty**, being held every morning at 6 am. The four Sundays of Advent are said to represent the 4,000 years of waiting for Christ. During Advent and, in some homes, on Christmas Eve, bee's wax or plain wax is poured on water, and fortunes are told from the shapes which emerge. Special tasks carried out during Advent are the baking of the Christmas **piernik** or honey cake, and the making of Christmas decorations. **Pierniki** are made in a great variety of shapes, including hearts, animals and St Nicholas figures. Traditional decorations include the **pajaki**, which are handmade mobiles, stars and decorated eggshells. Pajaki are traditional decorations, rather lots of bomb lets, colorful paper chains and lots of electric lights. Beautifully lit Christmas trees are placed in all public arenas, outside churches and in homes. Traditionally the trees are decorated with

shiny apples, gift walnuts, beautifully wrapped chocolate shapes and many homemade decorations and candles. On the top of the tree is a star or a glittering top piece. In many homes, sparklers are hung on the branches of the trees giving it a magical air. Sometimes the trees are left standing until February 2nd, the feast day of St. Mary of the Candle of Lighting. During Advent, the **Gwiadorze**, or star carriers or carol singers, used to begin wandering through the towns and villages and this would continue until Epiphany. Some of the **Gwiadorze** sang carols; others recited verses or put on **Szopke** or puppet show, or **herody** or nativity scenes. The last two customs are developments from traditional manger scenes or **Jaselka** or crib, Christmas Eve, **Wigilia**, is an important part of the Polish Christmas, in fact, the most important rituals are celebrated on this day. A traditional food found in Poland is **Oplatek**, which is a piece of bread pressed with a holy picture on the surface. Oplatek is more symbolic than real food. We celebrate with at least 12 different vegetarian dishes like: mushroom soup, carp, cabbage with pea, stuffed dumplings, and shells macaroni with poppy "makielki". In some homes – some hay is put under the tablecloth (it is connected with Christ's manger). People once carried these **oplatek** from house to house and wish their neighbors a Merry Christmas. Nowadays, the bread is mostly shared with members of the family and immediate neighbors. As each person shares the bread, they would have to do two things: forgive any hurts that have occurred over the past year and to wish the person all the happiness in the coming year.

FROM THE DESK OF MARGUERITE QUINN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 143RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Pennsylvania Preferred Act Becomes Law

The Pennsylvania Preferred Act, House Bill 1424, was signed by the governor earlier this month and gives the Pennsylvania



agriculture industry and existing agricultural jobs a boost of energy by placing a trademarked logo on products that are locally grown. It deals with the PA Preferred® brand logos you may have seen in local grocery stores.

The act allows the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) to set the conditions of licensing agreements with qualifying producers, processors and marketers of Pennsylvania agricultural commodities who are seeking the use of the PA Preferred® trademark.

The PA Preferred Act allows producers of Pennsylvania agriculture products to better reach consumers in the marketplace with their products in the free market. The license term is renewable and lasts for one year. Participation is voluntary and licensees expand their own funds on promotional materials. The use of the trademark creates no new governmental costs; it's simply a trademark of quality produce.

The PA Preferred® program began in 2004. The PDA initiated the program to set standards for excellence and to expand consumer markets for high-quality Pennsylvania products.

As always, please feel free to 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. This is a fundraising event organized by the ladies, but the 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.

DID YOU KNOW ...



In 2010, hunters donated nearly 100,000 pounds of venison to more than 4,000 emergency food assistance agencies in 53 participating counties through the state's 21 regional food banks. The meat was

enough to give 750,000 meals to Pennsylvanians at risk for hunger.

David Steeley took 3rd place in the bench press at the 100% Raw Powerlifting Northeast Regional (Gobbler Open) Nov. 12, 2011 at Johnson City, NY, pressing 275 lbs.



MESSAGE FROM GEORGE GREIG

PA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

"The ag industry is full of tough people who are quick to bounce back from difficult times. PDA has been helping farmers deal with draughts, floods and pests that threaten our livelihood. But there are others in need, and we're helping them, too. Nearly 1.4 million people in the commonwealth are at risk for hunger. PDA's Bureau of Food Distribution assists regional food banks and local food pantries to get the bounties of our state to those in need. We can be thankful for the people in our food production system who get our food from farm gate to dinner plate, but we must also thank the volunteers who get food to others who are down on their luck. In the spirit of the season, be thankful and celebrate by giving a little of your time, your talents, your gifts of produce or money to help make the holidays a little brighter for your fellow Pennsylvanians."



NATIONAL GRANGE COMMITS TO SUPPORT USPS IN REFORMS

TULSA, Okla. -- The National Grange hosted a luncheon panel focused on the United States Postal Service on Nov. 7 during its 145th Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The U.S. Postal Service was represented by 30-year veteran and Regional Vice President of Operations Linda Welch, who provided a clear picture of the legislative changes necessary for the second largest non-government employer in the United States to evolve, survive and compete.

"We have a universal responsibility to provide universal service to every American citizen, and we want to continue doing that in the most cost-effective way," Welch said. "Like the Grange, we've been around for a long time and, with the help of these legislative changes and our continued commitment internally, we look forward to continuing to serve your needs no matter what they are and no matter where they are for another 200 years."

National Grange Legislative Director Nicole Palya Wood responded to Welch's comments by highlighting the National Grange's role early on in the battle for Rural Free Delivery and recognized that the preservation of the U.S. Postal Service is a top priority.

"The National Grange is committed to working with and advocating for the USPS as they pursue legislative reforms to become more financially autonomous and competitive in an evolving marketplace," Wood said. "In areas where high-speed internet is not available, too many of our rural neighbors depend solely on the USPS for their connection to retailers, prescription services and family to let this establishment fail. Not to mention the disastrous economic ramifications of letting the second largest employer in the U.S. close its doors."

COMING SOON: ELECTRIC TRACTORS

JODIE WEHRSPANN, FARM INDUSTRY NEWS

Electric farm vehicles are gaining renewed interest in the agricultural industry, according to a recent article in Resource magazine, the



official publication of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Senior standards engineer Marlin Onnen with the John Deere Product Engineering Center says we can expect to see more diesel-electric systems in farm tractors, sprayers and implements. In his article "Coming Soon: Tractor Electrification," Onnen defines "electrified platforms" as vehicles with onboard system voltages in the range of 50 to 1000 VAC or 75 to 1500 VDC. Typically, a flywheel-mounted generator is used to produce electric current as the prime mover, displacing traditional hydraulic pumps and gear sets.

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. Year 1: \$500 to be repeated in year 2 of study if 2.5 grade average is maintained. Students must apply to Plumsteadville Grange by letter and forms available from Nancy Stephenson at the Cooperative Extension office detailing their study requirements. Candidates will be chosen by the Executive committee. Contact Meg Lomax with queries on 215 766 9801



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 in your prayers, as well as our shut-in members.

A THOUGHT FOR WINTER

"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens -

- the garden outdoors,
- the garden of pots and bowls in the house,
- and the garden of the mind's eye."

- Katherine S. White



**Plumsteadville Grange
Annual Christmas Party
Saturday December 10th at
6.30pm
in the Grange**

Pot Luck Supper
Entertainment, Carol singing
Visit from Santa Claus



RSVP Meg Lomax 215 766 9801 meglomax@verizon.net

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 7 – Bucks County Pomona Grange
Pot Luck Dinner at Plumsteadville Grange

December 10 – Plumsteadville Grange
Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Program

December 21 – First Day of Winter

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 26 – Boxing Day

December 26 – Kwanzaa Begins

December 31 – New Years Eve

January 10-14 – Pennsylvania Farm Show

January 11 – Plumsteadville Grange Meeting

OUR LORD'S PANTRY

Please bring donations of non perishable food items
for Our Lord's Pantry to the Christmas dinner



PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE # 1738

BOX 335, 5901 EASTON RD.

PLUMSTEADVILLE, PA 18949

WWW.PLUMSTEADVILLEGRANGE.ORG