

CONTESTS AND PROGRAMS  
DEAF AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our Deaf and Community Service work continues to benefit our local and statewide “communities” in big and small ways. Making plans early in the Grange year allows more time for members to vote on projects they wish to support and easier flexibility to put some great ideas in motion.

**OUR ‘DEAF’ WORK CONTINUES....**

**1) Our Campbell’s soup labels project** is on-going. **PLEASE REMEMBER WE NEED JUST THE UPC CODE** not the entire label. There are many products that are included in this – if you are not familiar with what they are please visit [www.labelsforeduction.com](http://www.labelsforeduction.com) for the current list.

If your Grange donates more than 500 UPC/bar codes you may request a Certificate of Appreciation by contacting one of the Department members at any of the State Grange functions. *You labels DO NOT have to come to the State Grange D&CS Dept. to get credit.* They may be donated locally and you simply note the number of bar codes donated in your annual Community Service Report.

**2) Continue to save soda pop tabs.** These are forwarded to an Elks Club in the state. The amount earned is doubled by them and forwarded to Dogs for the Deaf. This is a program that provides service dogs to people who are deaf. If there is a local organization that is collecting the soda pop tabs – you may donate to them and report the weight that you donated in your annual Community Service Report.

**3)** Work with your Grange Program Director/Lecturer to have a program or programs on topics that will educate your members about: hearing protection, assistive technology (such as the TTY, Relay or CapTel), interpreting/interpreters, sign language or any related subject.

**State Session** is always a highlight as we host our annual **Sign-a-Song Competition**. Nobody walks away disappointed after seeing the results of Grangers of all ages putting their best effort into signing a song of their choosing. Why not give it a try yourself?

**SIGN-A-SONG CONTEST RULES:**

\*Contestants must be a Grange member in good standing. Junior Grange membership counts. Junior contestants compete in the age groups 5-9 and 10-14, however the winners do not go beyond the state level.

\*The group category may include up to two Junior Grangers.

\*Contestants must furnish live music or a cassette/CD recording of the song being interpreted.

\*Three copies of the words of the song must be supplied for convenience of the judges.

\*Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing (i.e. a sign language interpreter) may not enter.

\*Signers must use total communication techniques: sign language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, and body movement.

\*Props and costumes are not allowed. Rhythm is optional.

\*There are two categories

1) Individual

2) Group (2 or more)

\*Only one song may be signed during the competition performance. Medleys are not permitted.

\*Participants should be prepared to sign their name, song title and type of sign being used (AL, ESL, or Pigeon).

### **Sign-a-Song Judging Guidelines:**

Utilization of Total Communication Skills: Sign Language ability, signs clearly with correct interpretation. 35 points

Body expression: Displays emotion, expresses key thoughts with Body movement, mouth words for lip reading. 35 points

Presentation: Interpret with confidence, clearly signed, uniformity (of the group) 20 points

Song selection is appropriate with a clear meaning and is suitable for the participants' signing ability. 10 points

Points may be awarded at the judges' discretion for areas not covered above. Total 100 points

Timing: 10 points will be deducted for each minute or fraction thereof over 5 minutes.

The rules are the same for the Junior Grange competition. Remember there are two age levels: 5-9 and 10-14. There will also be a Junior Grange Group category if there is interest. Sorry, but there is no further competition beyond the state level for Juniors.

Monetary awards and certificates will be given in the individual and group categories:

1<sup>st</sup> - \$30.00

2<sup>nd</sup> - \$25.00

3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20.00

First place winners also receive financial support for their participation in the Mid-Atlantic Regional competition.

## **POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST RULES**

Poster and Essay Contests are such a community draw. The interest generated by these contests goes beyond words.

This contest is for Grange members and non-members from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Schools, youth groups, church groups and Junior Granges are places to approach to enter this contest.

Entries from your area need to be locally judged and the **TOP THREE ENTRIES** must be received by the Grange Deaf and Community Service Director for judging at the state level by

**April 15, 2011 and March 30, 2012.** Once the judging is completed they will be returned to you so they may be returned to the entrant. They should be addressed to:

Kelly Van Ord  
2250 Cobham Hill Road  
Tidioute, PA 16351

The following information must be included with each entry to avoid any confusion or delays in return the entries: **Student's name, grade and phone number, school's name and phone number, sponsoring group or Grange's name, contact person's phone number and mailing address.**

The winning essays and posters will be printed in *The Advocate* as space permits. Monetary awards will be:

1<sup>st</sup> - \$25.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> - \$15.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> - \$10.00

The poster can include: words, artwork, photos and/or pasted-on items. The poster size should not be smaller than 12" x 18" and no larger than 15" x 22". Any medium may be used.

The essay may be hand written or computer generated. It should contain a minimum of 200 words but not exceed 300 words.

The theme for 2011 is **"If I Become Deaf Today What Would My Tomorrow Be Like?"**  
The theme for 2012 is **"How I Communicate With My Deaf Friend."**

## **OUR "COMMUNITY SERVICE" WORK CONTINUES....**

There are tremendous possibilities for the Grange's good works in our communities. Our goal is to identify and act on the needs and strengths of our community, encourage volunteer efforts of the Grange and cooperate with others for the betterment of the whole community. Volunteering to work toward a common goal can certainly help increase our Grange membership.

Subordinate and Pomona Masters are encouraged to appoint a Community Service Committee. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to promote the Grange's participation. All projects are greatly appreciated. Large or small membership, all Granges can be doing some kind of Community Service!

The Community Service program reporting period runs from September 1 to August 31. The nature of the Grange's Community Service program may include anything that is for the benefit of the community.

Members should select and vote to do their specific project(s) at a meeting. Listen to everyone's ideas. Maybe this is the year to pick something different or update how you can continue an old favorite.

Maintain good reports by writing down the number of people involved and hours worked on the project. Take action pictures, clip newspaper articles and keep letters to put in your scrapbook. These items add to and help document your project. The advantage of compiling a report of Community Service is that it is an accurate record of current activities. It

becomes a document of historical value for Grange archives and is evidence of Community Service for tax purposes/status, as well as proof that the Grange truly is a Community Service organization.

**Reports are due to the State Chairperson by September 10<sup>th</sup>.** The reports are judged on a specific list of criteria on the Judging Sheets.

There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100.00), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$75.00), and a 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$50.00) place as well as an Honorable Mention, if warranted (no monetary award) for Community/Subordinate Granges in the following categories:

1. Grange Membership of 75 or less
2. Grange membership of 76 or more

State awards for Pomona Granges are 1<sup>st</sup> (\$60.00), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50.00), and 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$40.00) place as well as an Honorable mention, if warranted (no monetary award).

State award winners are announced at State Grange Session traditionally at the All Grangers Banquet.

Remember to always send in your report no matter how big or small your efforts were and that the report books (if desired) must be two inches or smaller.

## **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE**

“How Full Can We Fill A Boat?” Help us find out at State Grange!! We are going to have a boat donated for us to use to see just how full we can get it and this will be on display at the State Grange session. Please bring or send canned or non-perishable food for our food drive. We will select a note worthy organization (from the area hosting Session) to receive the bounty collected. If at all possible we will have a representative come to the Session for the presentation. **HELP US TO MAKE THIS A GREAT SUCCESS!!!**

## **STATE WIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**

Mark your calendars – **May 21<sup>st</sup>** – we are going to have the first annual State Wide Community Service Day. Our committee wants you to do some kind of community service – clean up a road way, sponsor a community dinner, help at a nursing home, clean up a park – the ideas are endless. **Advertise – Advertise – Advertise** – let your community know what you will be doing and maybe, just maybe, you will get some non Grange members to help you out. Send me a small report and pictures (if possible) so that I may report in *The Advocate* what all was accomplished. This does not need to be a long report (send it to me via email or snail mail). Let’s see how much we can accomplish in one day!!

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

We encourage Granges to **honor a Community Citizen** each year. Choose a person that has been very active in your community making it a better place for all. Once you have selected this person – order the plaque from the National Grange – then invite this person to your meeting – have an open meeting with a special program and present the plaque to him or her. Advertise – Advertise – Advertise – let the community know what your Grange is up to. If you want it to be a surprise to the person – let the community know by way of mouth.

Our **Deaf and Community Service Appeal** letter is traditionally sent out in May requesting funding for our state supported community projects. **Financial donations** are welcome anytime. All donations received will stay in Pennsylvania. Checks should be written to **PA State Grange D&CS Dept.**

If you have a **suggestion as to where the monies could be used** please forward letters and electronic request to the State Director. An individual, a Grange or local agency, school or organization can make a request for funds.

The request should include: the specific need, approximate cost (and catalog and/or page with a picture and price ordering information if possible), the approximate number of people that will benefit and a contact name and phone number.

The monies can be used, for example: to support a project your Grange is working on; can be awarded directly to an agency or program item specific request or; can be used as seed money for a new or underfunded community project.

Give it some thought, where do you think the money should go?

The **Family Festival** has become a popular gathering place for Grange families in a relaxed atmosphere. The Deaf and Community Service Department members attend and lend a hand whenever asked. You're welcome to bring your D&CS Department comments and questions to us during the extended weekend or just introduce yourself. It's always nice to have a face to go with a name.

We have found the Family Festival a popular time to highlight our **OPERATION SHOE BOX** project. Grangers kindly donate more than a pickup truck load of personal items every year that gets distributed to our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan or anywhere overseas where they maybe serving. The Operation Shoebox Director has to receive the military personnel's name, shipping address and e-mail address. The e-mail address is needed to help locate the soldier after their package arrives at their overseas base.

We also covered the mailing costs to ship the items overseas. The Department members have heartily agreed to keep this project going for as long as the folks that run the program continue it.

People seemed to enjoy our Department's **Chinese Auction** at the Family Festival so we aren't going to change a thing! You buy the tickets and put them in the collection container/bag next to the item. On Saturday evening we pull the names and the winner takes home the item.

**THE NATIONAL GRANGE FOUNDATION**

The National Grange Historical Foundation continues to collect money for the **Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm**. If your Grange wishes to donate to the Farm, please forward donations to the State Director, made payable to **PA State Grange D&CS Dept**, and **put "Kelley Farm" on the memo line**.

Remember to check the D&CS column in *The Advocate* for updates or any changes. Also, keep the PA State Grange web page address [www.pagrang.org](http://www.pagrang.org) handy to check in from time to time for anything that might be of Community Service related interest as well as any related forms that you might need. You just never know what you'll find!

If you have any questions – I can be reached by phone at (814)484-7295 (evening) or email at [kvanord@verizon.net](mailto:kvanord@verizon.net). Other Department members are listed in the Grange Directory.