
Deaf Awareness & Community Services

Ruth Vonada, Director
303 Ridge Road
Spring Mills PA 16875
ruthvonada@gmail.com

The Deaf and Community Service Committee's main goal for the next two years is for Granges to focus on their communities. Take a look around your community and develop plans for your projects now. Look at the needs that your schools, food banks, parks, playgrounds etc. have and develop a project that would benefit them. Make a plan early and then follow through. Just remember to report all you do on the Community Service report form. If you need any help with planning an activity, just ask one of our committee members.

Community Service Contests & Projects

There are endless possibilities for the Granges to do good work in our communities. Again, our goal is to keep as many projects within the "community" of your Grange. What a wonderful way to get the Grange name out and to let community members see what Grange is all about.

All Granges are asked to keep track of their projects and report them to the State Grange. The Community Service program reporting period is from September 1 to August 31 of each year. Community Service is anything that benefits the community, a group of people, or an individual.

Keep a record of how many people worked and about how many hours were spent on the project. Take pictures and submit them to your local newspaper and to *Pennsylvania Grange News* (formerly *The Advocate*). Be sure and save those articles to submit with your report and/or scrapbook. Reports and/or scrapbooks are due to Ruth Vonada by September 15th. We need to have 25% participation from all the Granges in order to receive funding from the National Grange. While a scrapbook is nice, a report will also serve this

purpose. Report all projects, no matter how big or small.

There are monetary awards for 1st (\$100.00), 2nd (\$75.00) and a 3rd (50.00) if warranted for Community Granges in the following categories:

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

Awards for Pomona Granges are 1st (\$60.00), 2nd (\$50.00), and 3rd (\$40.00), as well as an Honorable Mention.

State Session Community Service Projects

Information about these projects will be posted on the Deaf & Community Services page of the State Grange website.

Other projects for your Grange

DO NOT bring these to State Session. Track the project, number of items collected and organization to which they were donated and record it on your Community Service Report.

- **Labels for Education** We are asking that all Labels for Education be donated to your local schools (if they collect them). Visit www.labelsforeducation.com to download a current list of products that can be used. There are many items that have the Labels for Education label, so check the list, copy it, and post in your Grange hall. If any labels are brought to State Session, they will be donated in that area.
- **Box Tops for Education** Please save these and also donate to your local school. Go to www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list.
- **Eye Glasses** Collect used Eye Glasses and donate them to your LOCAL Lions Club.
- **Aluminum Can Tabs** Please continue to collect these and donate to the Ronald McDonald House in your area. If you don't know of a local RMH, visit www.rmhc.org to get a list of locations.
- **Stuffed Toys and Hospital Dolls** Emergency services and emergency rooms use these to calm children and ease their fears. Please donate to your local EMS or Hospital.

- **Caps, mittens, gloves & scarves** These items can be given to places that service children or to homeless shelters. Also check with your local schools, many children go to school without these.
- **Cancer Hats** Check with the local hospital or cancer treatment center. Dealing with the loss of hair can be very traumatic, hats can ease the pain.
- **ABC Quilts** These are always needed at hospitals, foster homes, and pregnancy crisis centers. Help make a child's life a little warmer.
- **Little Dresses for Africa** These are dresses made from a pillow case, given to poverty stricken areas. Not all dresses go to Africa, some stay in the United States. Check out their website www.littledressesforafrica.org.

These are just a few suggestions; there is an unlimited number of projects your Grange could do for the community. Collecting items and donating them to an organization is the easiest way to give back to the community, and it gives your Grange something to submit. If you need help, please contact one of the state committee members.

New for 2016: We will be sponsoring a *Christmas Stocking Contest*. All stockings are to be brought to State Session in 2016. After judging, they will be donated to a Military Group that will use them for gifts to our Veterans and Service Personnel. These stockings will NOT be returned.

There are two categories:

1. pre-made and you embellish
2. handmade: sewn, crocheted, or knitted

Age groups:

- A. 5-9
- B. 10-14
- C. 15-25
- D. 26-50
- E. 51 and older

Prizes: 1st – \$10.00; 2nd – \$5.00

Approximate Size: 6-8 inches across the top, 15-20 inches from top to bottom. Use your imagination; remember these are for military personnel.

Community Service Awards

Local and Pomona Granges should 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 and invite this person to your meeting or special event. Have an open meeting with a special program and present the plaque to him or her. Advertise and let the community know what is happening at your Grange.

Community Service Funds

There are funds available through the State Grange that can be donated to local community service projects or could be used for “seed” money for a project. Granges can request these funds for their own project or on behalf of a local agency or school. The request should include: the specific need, approximate cost (catalog page with a picture, price and ordering information if applicable), the approximate number of people that will benefit and a contact name and phone number. Send requests to the PA State Grange Deaf & Community Services Director.

Dino's Operation Shoebox

Please bring your personal care items to Family Festival for these care boxes that are distributed to our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan or other overseas locations where they are serving. If you would like someone you know to receive a box, please contact Operation Shoebox directly. They will need to know the Soldier's name, shipping 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 make a monetary donation to the project to help with shipping costs for the boxes.

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 Grange Deaf & Community Services Director, made payable to PA State Grange D&CS Dept., with "Kelley Farm" in the memo line. The D & CS Committee has several DVDs about the Kelly Farm. If you would like to use one of them for a program, contact Ruth Vonada.

Deaf Awareness Activities & Contests

Lecturer's Programs

Work with your Grange Lecturer/Program Director to have a program to educate your members about one or all of the following: hearing protection, assisted technology (such as the TTY, Relay or CapTel), interpreting/interpreters, sign language or any related subject.

Sign-A-Song Contest

Rules:

- Contestants must be a Community or Junior Grange member in good standing.
- Contestants must furnish live music or a 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 complete 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; Individual and Group (2 or more individuals, and may include up to two Junior Grangers.)
- Only one song may be signed during the performance. Medleys are not permitted.
- Participants should be prepared to sign their name, song title and type of sign being used (ASL, ESL, or Pigeon).

Judging Guidelines: Total 100 points

- Utilization of 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 (if applicable). 20 points
- Song selection is appropriate with a clear meaning and is suitable for the participants' signing ability. 10 points
- Timing: 10 points will be deducted for each minute or fraction thereof over 5 minutes
- Points may be awarded at the judges' discretion for areas not covered above.

Monetary awards and certificates will be given in the individual and group categories: 1st - \$30.00, 2nd - \$25.00, and 3rd - \$20.00. First place winners also receive financial support to participate in the competition at the Eastern Region Youth Conference.

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

Remember to submit your Community Service Report!

Even if you don't have any projects to report, fill out the basic information and send it to the Director. Pennsylvania **MUST** have 25% of our Granges report to be eligible for Community Service funds from the National Grange.