Letter to the Editor:
Disappointment at PSU Elections

Barbara Gross, PA State Grange Executive Committee
Scrubgrass Grange #1705, Venango County

I just returned from the Penn State Ag Trustees election and am reflecting on the day; all I can say is, “I am so disappointed with the level of support this process is given by my fellow Grange brothers and sisters.”

The Penn State Ag Trustee Election takes place yearly on the first Thursday in May. Each county in PA is given the opportunity to have three delegates cast their ballot for two Penn State University Trustee seats for a term of three years. The delegates must be representatives of their County Agriculture organizations. In late January or early February each Agriculture Organization in your County — including the Pomona Grange Secretary — receives a letter inviting the organization to participate in the Agriculture election of Trustees. Three members in good standing from each Agriculture organization in the County may have their names submitted as delegates with the deadline being early April. The County Extension Office then receives a list of all the names submitted as a possible voting delegate. At that time a County Caucus should be held to select the County’s three voting delegates and alternates. When attending the election, the delegates are required to register and present photo identification. The candidates for Trustee’s bios are then presented and the voting occurs.

Today at the 2016 Penn State Ag Trustee election there should have been 201 Agriculture organization Delegates casting votes (67 counties x 3 delegates each). Today there were approximately 142 delegates casting votes, that is just over 2 delegates per county. Many of the counties who did not have the full delegation of voters were active PA Grange counties. Grangers — where were you? Grangers need to stand up for

See Elections on pg. 6

Deadline

Items for the August/September Issue are due by July 13. Send to publicrelations@pagrange.org.
There is so much to share with all of you — this space is never enough! First of all, I would like to thank Sandy Herman for her four years of service to the Grange as our receptionist, secretary, bookkeeper, and so much more. Sandy felt it was time to move on to another challenge and we wish her all the best. In the meantime, we are in the process of hiring someone full time and should have them on board in the beginning of June.

I hope that all of you are hearing my President’s letter that accompanies the Executive Committee (EC) meeting overviews sent to your secretary. Our Grange secretaries are very busy and we appreciate all they do, but sometimes they need a reminder to share all communications at the monthly meeting. It is important to the EC that the overviews of our meetings are shared with members. It’s their way of keeping you updated on the business of Grange. In my quest for transparency, my goal continues to be to provide as much information as possible via all our networks: the President’s letter, PA Grange News, emails, Facebook and our web site.

Speaking of State Session, plans are coming along for this year in Shippensburg. The schedule is very different this year, a change that I hope you find as exciting as I do. I ask that you provide feedback on this change after session so we know if the new schedule meets the needs of the majority.

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR ONE OF THE MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS!**

This is an important training opportunity for every single member of the Grange. We’ve worked diligently putting an exciting and informative program together and we need to see your smiling faces at the workshops! The workshops include officer training and information on recruiting and RETAINING new members. The registration form is available on the website, by calling the office or from your Grange Secretary. I’ve been busy in Harrisburg this past month attending hearings on Grange policy that you started at our grassroots Community Granges. The most recent was a hearing regarding the ban on Sunday Hunting. I testified along with PA Farm Bureau, the State Equine Association and others opposed to lifting the ban on Sunday hunting. Representives of the NRA, PA Game Commission, PA Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs and others testified in favor of Sunday hunting. The prevailing feeling was that the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee is in favor of lifting the ban, but no compromise was proposed. If you have a concern, I strongly urge you to write to Committee Chairman Senator Mario Scavello immediately or call me.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a training to update my CPR certification. The day also included training on using an AED and administering Narlozone to someone suffering an opiod or heroin overdose. Attendees also received a Narlozone kit, something every home should have. Everyone considers time to be a precious commodity and this training was time well used. If you have the opportunity to attend this type of training, take it!

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**Secretaries Source**

Sandy Herman
PA State Grange
Office Manager
pagrange@pagrange.org

**Lifetime Members and Golden Sheaf Members**

A Lifetime Member is an individual who has paid the Lifetime Membership dues as set forth by the Lifetime Membership committee. The rate paid is dependent on the age of the individual. These individuals should be included in your total membership in line 4 of the Quarterly Report and their dues should be deducted from line 17. They are no longer paying dues to you, they have paid the State Grange directly. We consider their dues paid for the rest of their Grange membership. While we are so appreciative of members who have belonged to the Grange for their entire life, that is not this definition of Lifetime Membership.

Golden Sheaf members are individuals who have belonged to the Grange for 50 consecutive years. They are divided into two categories:

1. **Golden Sheaf Pre-2001**: These members became Golden Sheaf members prior to 2001. The National Grange gives these individuals a discount (currently $3.50) on their dues. These individuals should be included on line 4 of the quarterly report and their dues should be deducted on line 16.

2. **Golden Sheaf Post-2001**: These members became Golden Sheaf members in 2001 or after. Even though the National Grange is no longer able to offer the discount, this is still an amazing accomplishment and these members should be listed on line 24 of the Quarterly Report.
Please Note: there are significant changes to the schedule from previous years, including event day and times.

**Thursday, October 20**
1:00 pm  
State Officers, Committees arrive  
Executive Comm. Mtg.
Exhibit Room Set-up (Conference Cntr)

4:00 - 9:00  
Convention Registration (Lobby, Marriott)

6:30 - 10:00  
State Officer Rehearsal (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

7:00 - 9:00  
Exhibit Entries Accepted (Conference Cntr)

**Friday, October 21**
8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Convention Registration (Lobby, Marriott)

8:00 - 9:00 am  
Session Committee Mtgs (Conference Cntr & Marriott)

8:00 - 10:30  
Exhibit Entries Accepted (Conference Cntr)

9:00  
OFFICIAL OPENING (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

12:00 - 1:30 pm  
Lunch Recess

12:00 - 1:00  
Past Officers Luncheon (Reisner Hall)

1:00  
Judging of Exhibits

1:30  
Session Reconvenes (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

1:45  
Suggestions for Office - All Offices

5:30 - 7:00  
Dinner Break

7:00 - 8:30  
Session Reconvenes (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

9:00 - 11:00  
Youth Officer Practice (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

**Saturday, October 22**
7:30 - 8:30 am  
Awards Presentations - FA, D&CS & Lecturer (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Convention Registration (Lobby, Marriott)

9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Exhibit Room Open (Conference Center)

9:00 am  
Junior Jamboree Registration (Lobby, Marriott)

9:00 am  
Session Opening - Youth Officers (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

12:00 - 1:00 pm  
Lunch Break

1:00 - 3:00  
Sign-A-Song & Public Speaking (CUB Theatre)

3:30 - 5:00  
Conferral of 6th Degree (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

5:30 - 7:30  
Youth Banquet & Foundation Auction (CUB)

8:00 - 9:30  
Session Reconvenes - Installation of Officers (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

9:30  
Youth Party (location TBD)

**Sunday, October 23**
8:30 - 9:30 am  
Church Service (Conference Cntr)

9:45 am  
Junior Degree (Marriott Conference Rm)

10:00am - 12:00 pm  
PICK UP ALL CONTEST ENTRIES (NO Early Pick-Up)

12:00 - 1:00 pm  
All Granger Workshop (Conference Cntr)

1:00 - 3:00 pm  
All Granger Banquet (Tuscarora Rm-Reisner Hall)

Membership Awards & Entertainment

Our Community Service Project will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlisle and Shippensburg. Details will be in the August/September issue.
REGISTRATION FORM
144th Annual Pennsylvania State Grange Session
October 21 – 23, 2016  •  Shippensburg, PA

•RESERVATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2016•
There will be a $10 LATE FEE due at registration for reservations post-marked after the deadline.

Please complete a SEPARATE form for each person attending.
You can copy this form or download and print it at www.pagrange.org.

PRINT CLEARLY FOR NAME BADGE

Full Name: __________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (_______) ___________________ Email: _____________________________________________________

Grange Name & No: __________________________________________ County: _________________________

Please check ALL that apply: Pomona Delegate ___  Subordinate Delegate ___  Guest ___

State Officer ___  Department Director/Committee ___  Past State Officer ___

Junior___  Youth ___

__ Registration Fee $20.00  _____

__ Junior Jamboree (Ages 5-14, incl. registration fee) $20.00  _____

__ Junior Chaperone (Registration & Jamboree) $25.00  _____

__ Past Officers Luncheon (Friday) (limit 50) $15.00  _____

__ Youth Banquet & Foundation Auction (Saturday Evening) $22.00  _____

The Foundation auction will be held at this banquet.
You do NOT have to be youth age to attend.

__ All Granger Banquet (Sunday Luncheon-Chicken) $22.00  _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED  _____

Make checks payable to PA Grange South Central Convention District
Send payment and completed form to Stacy Bruker 3559 Grier Point Rd. Marysville PA 17053
Questions: Contact Stacy at slebersol@hotmail.com or 717-814-0204 (text or call).

Registration Forms MUST be postmarked by SEPTEMBER 9 or be subject to a $10 Late Fee.
What do you having going on tonight? For most of us, that answer on any given night is GRANGE. I’m sure many of you are like me, born and raised in the Grange, it’s just always been a part of our family tradition. I’m glad that each and every one of you are a part of this great organization and so willing to give of your time to ensure the future of your Grange.

The Grange has always been, and will always be, family-oriented and this is something I treasure; the importance of family in everything we do. As a busy family it can be difficult to find a balance between all the things you love, but once you do, it’s a feeling like no other. It’s important that we make sure members know how much they are appreciated and needed at meetings and events and to understand when they must put something before their Grange commitment from time to time.

One way to make time for everything is to combine your family and Grange activities. This summer is filled with Grange activities for the ENTIRE family, Junior Camp, Youth Camp and Family Festival throughout July. And don’t forget State Session in Shippenburg PA, October 21-23, an event filled with activities for the whole family.

State Session is sure to be filled with grassroots policy discussion and we’ll be electing a full slate of State Officers. If you’re interested in being a part of the leadership of the State Grange, contact the State Office or just come to State Session and have someone suggest your name.

This marks my final year as your Lady Assistant Steward. I am grateful for all I’ve learned and the people I’ve met — you will never be forgotten. What made a small town girl like me think I could take on this position? God, my family and my Grange. Without their support all of these years I know my sanity would have left a long time ago. If I could take that leap to the next step of Grange leadership… so can you!

Lastly, PA is helping to host National Grange in November and we need your help to make it a success! Please sign up and I hope to see you there!
Meet Jennifer Stewart

Jennifer is our new Office Manager!

She will be the voice you hear when you call the office and she's quickly learning all she needs to know in order to answer your questions and provide great support to our members.

Jennifer is a native of the Harrisburg area. Previously she worked in the mental health field and was looking for a career change. Her skills and experience will definitely serve her well in this position.
Registration Deadlines!

**Junior Camp - June 12th**
(with $25 late fee)
Cost: $130

**Youth Camp - June 10th**
Cost: $50
(1st time Camper: $25)

**Family Festival - June 10th**
Cost: Varies with Activities
See page 13 for Community Service project information.

2016 Talent Contest
Don’t forget to prepare your talent and register with Lorena (travellingcamper@hotmail.com or Lurae (juniors@pagrange.org) by July 1.

The online registration links for each of these events are available at www.pagrange.org. You can also download and print the form.

All youth (married and single) ages 21 to 35 are invited to compete for the Young Patrons contest. This is similar to the Youth Ambassador contest in that contestants will be given a knowledge test, answer an impromptu question and have an interview. The competition will take place at Family Festival and those interested in competing will need to register for and plan to arrive to Family Festival by 9 pm on Friday, July 15th. If you are interested in competing, please let Ellen Wadsworth, Youth Director, know by July 10th at youth@pagrange.org. All contest rules are located in the National Grange Youth Handbook which can be found on the PA State Grange website, www.pagrange.org.

Upcoming Youth Events

**National Grange Young Patron Contest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Youth Invasion – PA Grange Family Day at the Capitol and FUN at Hershey Park. Contact Ellen Wadsworth to secure your ticket to HP.</td>
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| July 1 – 3 | PA State Grange Youth Camp
Camp Sylvan Hills, Howard, PA
Theme: Grange Family Game Night |
| July 14 – 17 | PA State Grange Family Festival
Centre County Grange Fairgrounds
Theme: Under the Sea |
| August 7   | Youth Invasion – PA State Grange Family Picnic
DelGrosso Amusement Park, Tipton, PA |
| August 20  | Youth Invasion – PA State Grange Family Picnic
Knoebles Amusement Park, Elysburg, PA |
| Oct. 21 – 23 | PA State Grange Convention
Shippensburg, PA
Youth Officers needed - see application on page |
| Nov. 15 - 19 | 150th National Grange Convention
Washington, DC |

The online registration links for each of these events are available at www.pagrange.org. You can also download and print the form.

2016 Talent Contest
Don’t forget to prepare your talent and register with Lorena (travellingcamper@hotmail.com or Lurae (juniors@pagrange.org) by July 1.

The online registration links for each of these events are available at www.pagrange.org. You can also download and print the form.
NAME ______________________________________________________________
ADDRESS____________________________________________________________
E-MAIL_______________________________________________________________
GRANGE NAME, NUMBER & COUNTY_______________________________________

I would like to be considered as an officer for the Youth Team for the State Grange
Convention. I understand this commitment involves a practice Friday night and opening
the PA State Grange convention on Saturday morning. I understand that it is my
responsibility to know the speaking part, drill work and responsibilities for the office I
have selected.

I would like to be considered for the following office (please list up to three offices in the
order of your preference):

1.___________________________________________________________________
2.___________________________________________________________________
3.___________________________________________________________________

The Youth Department will provide rooms for Friday and Saturday evening (up to 4
individuals per room) and a ticket for the Youth Banquet on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

I would like a room for Friday night: Yes__________ No__________
I would like a room for Saturday night: Yes__________ No__________
I would like a ticket for the Youth Banquet on Saturday: Yes_______ No________

Please return application to: Ellen Wadsworth, 362 University Road, Lincoln University,
PA 19352, or youth@pagrange.org.

Deadline: July 31, 2016
Ray McMillen (left) was honored as Granger of the Year. Joyce Latch presented the award, both are charter members.

Members recognized for years of service (l to r): Adelaide and Perry Kretzing (35 years), Joyce Latchford and Ray McMillen (60 years), Sally Dobbs (37 years), Jeffery Dobbs (35 years) and Leo Dobbs (70 years).

Members recognized for years of service (l to r): (London #1492) Frances Steese (seated) was honored for 75 years of membership. Master George Gregg (far left) presented her a certificate. Also pictured from second on the left are: Harold McDowell, Frances' brother; Patty McAdams and Ginny Richardson, her daughters.


Norman O. Merkel was honored as the organization's longest membership holder, commemorating his 82nd consecutive year as a member of Virginville Grange.
Grange Month Celebrations

Virginville #1832

Community Service Funds recipients (front row L to R: Steve Bleiler and Ashley Weil, Community Fire Company of Virginville repres; Fern Sonon, Virginville Granger of the Year; Mary Ann (Billig) Franklin and Al Billig, members of the Mary Billig family; Lee Gougler, Virginville Grange Community Service Chair. Back row L to R: John Lubas and Matt Dempsey, Community Fire Company of Virginville; Richard M. Schaeffer, Virginville Grange President; Duane Engle, Reading Railroad Heritage Museum of Hamburg; Oliver Blatt, WK&S Railroad of Kempton, Stacy Bruker, PA State Grange PR Director.

Log Cabin Unity #2110

Members of Pennsylvania’s newest Grange, Log Cabin Unity #2110 enjoyed a presentation on identifying local plants and berries during their community open house.

Pioneer #1777

Pioneer Junior Grangers and visitors got friendly with a Burmese Python during their Granges’ community night program. In addition to membership awards, the group was “entertained” by LN’s Travelling Reptiles.
What would you do? Logan Grange #109, in Centre County, was asked if it was up to a challenge of doing an unusual community service project. The answer was yes.

A committee was appointed and as they say, the rest is history. “Returning Them to Loved Ones”, the community service project to get chalk drawings of soldiers home to their families, was underway. Member Patty Bird managed to locate a website called Fallen Heroes which contained portraits of many service personnel who were killed in action. Using that site and a website that had copies of the actual drawings, she was able to identify all 20 of the soldiers in the drawings.

After being identified, members cleaned or replaced the glass and fixed up the frames, and then came the hard part, learning more about the soldiers and finding their families. Initial telephone calls led to identifying just a small few so Bird started researching them more in depth. Using multiple resources on the internet, they were able to locate telephone numbers for many more. Calls to family members led to more telephone numbers and suggestions on how to find others. As of today, the drawings all but one have all been sent home to their families and hopefully with the help of the American Legion in Bedford, that soldier’s drawing will be sent to family members soon.

The actual drawings were done by Mary Vollero, a former Penn State Dubois campus professor, who no longer wanted them. Vollero sketched 67 portraits after reading an article about Army Sgt. Ernest Bucklew, a young soldier from Enon Valley, PA. She continued to sketch them until all 67 were finished.

On Mothers Day, Bird and her daughter Ashley Furman presented a drawing to one of the local mothers. Mrs. Amy Beaver said that she felt like she was receiving a special gift from her late son, Army Sgt. Dale Lloyd who was killed in action on July 19, 2004 at the age of 22, in Iskandariyah, Iraq.

This was truly a moving project and learning about each of them has been very informative as they were each truly special young men and women. If you would like to learn about the young men and women that have given their lives to defend our country, go to the website “Fallen Heroes” and read each of their stories.
Community Service Projects at Family Festival

Bike/Hike-A-Thon Benefiting Gift of Life Organ & Tissue Donor Program

Saturday, July 16, at 10 AM there will be a Bike/Hike-A-Thon for all ages! ALL Family Festival attendees are invited to participate! Registration begins at 9:45 AM. There will be prizes for both biking and hiking in 3 age categories. There will also be a prize for the most money raised - So get started raising money now. Bring all funds to Family Festival for collection.

We will also be presenting our Wrapped In Hugs wraps to a representative from Gift of Life.

Collection Items for the Ronald McDonald House

Funds from our "Cake Walks" during the evening activities will also go to the RMH in Danville.

- Keurig K-cups, coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Individual juice boxes, snack items, meals (pasta & sauce, mac & cheese)
- 8 oz. Styrofoam cups
- 3 oz. paper cups
- Plastic silverware
- Paper towels
- Gallon & quart zip lock bags
- Serving utensils
- Cookie sheets, muffin tins
- Food storage containers
- Dish cloths
- High efficiency laundry detergent
- Powder Automatic Dish Detergent

- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Anti-bacterial Pump Hand Soap
- 409, glass cleaner
- Batteries of all sizes
- Crib Sheets
- Feminine products
- Shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Copier paper
- Forever postage stamps
- Alarm Clocks
- Sewing kits
- Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Staples, Target, Kohl's Giant, Weis)
It’s 8 a.m., and you jump in your car to drive to work. You have every intention of driving safely, but within minutes of merging onto the highway you’ve already checked yourself in the mirror, fiddled with your car’s radio, programmed your GPS for a meeting location, made two phone calls and texted your friend.

You might not realize it, but you’re a distracted driver. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, each day in the United States, over 8 people are killed and 1,161 are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver.

With the age of technology and social media, texting and driving is a huge epidemic. 5 seconds—that the average time a driver’s eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 MPH, that’s enough time to cover the length of a football field.

There are ways to manage your distractions. First, put your electronic devices away! Turn your cell phone on silent before you start the engine so even if someone calls or texts, you won’t be tempted to answer your phone. If you MUST dial while driving for an emergency reason, use voice-activated dialing so your eyes never leave the road. Eat or drink before you get in the car. If you need to bring a drink in the car, make sure it’s in a spill proof container. Spills are one of the leading causes of accidents in regards to food and drinks in the car. Finish dressing and grooming at home—before you get on the road.

A general rule of thumb, whatever you’re doing while you should be paying attention to the road, it can wait. If it can’t wait, it’s time to pull over.

For more information and to receive a no-obligation quote for your Grange or personal insurance, call Linda Willis or David Schlosberg at Gunn-Mowery, LLC at (800) 840-1243.

Liberty Grange #1780 Supports Local FFA Chapters

Liberty Grange #1780, Lawrence County, hosted a fund raising event to benefit their local FFA chapters. The Grange hosted square dance teams from the Laurel and Wilmington Area School Districts. The teams are both blue ribbon winners and they showed off their skills to the crowd. While enjoying the square dancing attendees could purchase food prepared by the Grangers and FFA members. Local businesses also donated funds and items for the day, adding to the success. Over $1000 was raised which was split evenly between the two FFA chapters. Everyone enjoyed the event and the FFA students were very grateful and expressed interest in doing it again.
Welcome New Grange Members

Allegheny #1843, Lycoming Co
  E. Lenore Soffel
  Howard Soffel

Banner #115, Cambria Co
  Elizabeth Niebauer
  Melissa Venesky
  Cynthia Witham

Big Creek #1559, Carbon Co
  Audrey Cebrosky

Big Knob #2008, Beaver Co
  Erin Baxter
  Michael Baxter
  Roxie Costanza
  Kelly Druschel
  Tim Druschel
  Chyenne Happ
  Gregg Happ
  Kim Happ
  Allison Raybuck
  Tom Raybuck
  Fritz Retsch
  Penny Tobert
  Roxanne Young

Dawson #419, Fayette Co
  Olivia Lowther

Donegal #495, Butler Co
  Adam Davis
  Alan Davis
  Jamie Davis Sr.
  Cody Jones

Fairview #1351, Beaver Co
  Lee White

Fleetwood #1839, Berks Co
  Daniel Gaumer
  Isaac Mengel
  Kayla Schlegel

Frankfort Springs #1989, Beaver Co
  Anna Golden
  Betty Sue Sutherin

Halfmoon #2910, Centre County
  Beverly Beck
  Roy Beck

Harmony #120, Clearfield Co
  Cynthia Fox
  Joanne Salsgiver

Hookstown #1980, Beaver Co
  Dale Greenwald
  Jennifer Greenwald
  Katelynn Greenwald
  Kristen Greenwald

Kimmerlings #1529, Lebanon Co
  Krista Getz
  Denise Turnitsa

Labor #1063, Wayne Co
  Jackie Swendsen

McKendree #722, Luzerne Co
  Regis Grattan

Middletown #684, Bucks Co
  Michael P. Tierney
  Michael S. Tierney

Pens Valley #158, Centre Co
  Lisa Musser
  Cindy Puff
  Barry Styers
  Kathe Styers
  Nancy Wise
  Lisa Witherite

Red Lion #1781, York Co
  Cody Arnold
  Kimberly Dahr
  Lydia Schlitzkus

Roseville #1290, Jefferson Co
  Jill Alderton
  Rodger Alderton

Sanborn #2018, Clearfield Co
  R. Elnor Huey
  Denise Ralston
  Gary Ralston

Union #152, Susquehanna Co
  Robert Strickland

Union City #89, Erie
  Jack Bowersox
  Kayla Hoffman

Valley #1360, York Co
  Belinda Bumbaugh

Virginville #1832, Berks Co
  Cheryl Bleiler
  David Bleiler
  Patricia Clark
  Steve Clark
  Shirlene Epting
  Trevor Fegley
  Morgan Kunkel
  Jacob Moatz
  Suzanne Myers
  Jacob Smith

Wesley #1675, Venango Co,
  Frank Davis
I hope you have had a wonderful spring and are getting ready for an enjoyable summer. We have just had a few days of unseasonably cool weather and I am impatiently waiting for the warm weather that the summer will bring.

As the end of my school year draws to a close, tying up all the loose ends from the last several months gets pretty hectic and stressful. Most times, it feels as though I am adding items to my “To Do” list exponentially quicker than I am crossing them off! Frequently, I find myself so caught up in the stress and my seemingly endless “To Do” list that I do not take the time to be thankful for all the little things that so many of us take for granted.

A couple of years ago at a local art show, I saw a painted sign that read, “Enjoy the little things…for one day you’ll look back and realize they were the big things.” The author, William Feather, once said, “Plenty of people miss their share of happiness, not because they never found it, but because they didn’t stop to enjoy it.” God’s blessings truly are all around us. We should always be grateful for the big things God has given us – His beautiful Creation, the family and friends that are a part of our lives, our health and safety. But we should strive to always be aware of, and thankful for, all of the little things in our lives as well – a laugh shared among friends, a smile shared between strangers, countless experiences and conversations with others in our lives, and so many more. James 1:17 reminds us, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

And, while we strive to always praise God for the blessings he bestows upon us, we should also remember to take our worries and burdens to God. Psalm 55:22 reminds us, “Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.”

I wish each of you a relaxing and fun summer and I hope to see you at the many Grange events this summer.
Membership-Leadership Workshop

For ALL Grange Members, especially those currently serving or wishing to serve as an Officer. The workshop will focus on enhancing leadership skills, membership growth, and officer training. It’s a great opportunity for Grangers to learn more about the role of each office and how to recruit and keep new members.

Four Sessions Available:

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 9 AM - 3 PM
Kutztown Grange #1836, Berks Co.
Kemp & Jane Alley, Kutztown PA 19530
Register By: May 6

Saturday, June 25, 2016, 9 AM - 3 PM
Eagle Grange #1, Lycoming Co.
Rte. 15 & East Blind Rd., Montgomery PA 17752
Register By: June 10

Saturday, August 6, 2016, 9 AM - 3 PM
Buckhorn Grange #1119, Cambria Co.
2095 Fieldstone Ave., Summerhill PA 15958
Register By: July 22

Saturday, September 24, 2016, 9 AM - 3 PM
Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford Co.
19935 Grange Center Rd., Saegertown PA 16433
Register By: September 9

CANCELLED

$15 per person
includes lunch, snacks and materials

Name: ____________________________________________
Grange Name & No.: ________________________________________
Current Office: ____________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________

Session:  [ ] May 21, Kutztown  [ ] June 25, Eagle
[ ] August 6, Buckhorn  [ ] September 24, Hayfield

Make Check Payable to:  PA State Grange
20 Erford Rd. Suite 216, Lemoyne PA 17043
There’s still time to complete your entries for the 2016 contests! See your 2015-16 Guide to Contests and Programs for details.

You can get a copy of the guide on our website, www.pagrange.org, or by contacting Jennifer at the State Grange office, 800-552-3865.

2016 NATIONAL GRANGE QUILT BLOCK CONTEST
The pattern is Dresden Plate, and the color scheme should be shades of blue and gold.
Full contest details and pattern templates are available on our website.
Entries are due to Martha Ebersole by August 31.

LIFE INSURANCE — For the “What Ifs” in Life
Life can change in an instant. Suddenly, those “what if” situations can become a reality that send a family reeling financially and emotionally.

Ask yourself these questions:
What if I died unexpectedly?
Could my family continue to live in our home?
Would my children have the funds to be able to attend college?
Will my family have the funds on hand to pay for my funeral and final expenses?

Life insurance is there to provide financial help to those affected by the “what if” situations.

Please Note: All Grange Members receive a $3000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy at no cost. You may choose to meet with a representative of AIL to discuss other coverage options, but there is obligation to do so in order to receive the $3000 AD&D benefit.
A common saying about a huge public policy issue is that it ‘takes all the oxygen out of the room’. Put another way, the issue is so dominant and so combustible that there is little room for anything else. Welcome to the public policy world of the Pennsylvania State Budget.

First, let’s go through the textbook version on how Pennsylvania’s state budget is adopted.

The Governor proposes a state budget to a joint session of the General Assembly. House and Senate Appropriations Committees interview Cabinet officials to have them explain the rationale for their particular funding request. This includes both the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). A budget vehicle is advanced with everyone understanding that it will NOT be the final outcome. This year, the vehicle is House Bill 1999. June is negotiation month and July 1 is the constitutional deadline for the state budget for the new fiscal year to begin.

The reality is anything but textbook. Currently there is considerable tension between Democratic Governor Tom Wolf and Republicans who control the General Assembly -- far more than the usual between the Governor and the legislature no matter what their politics.

This is not a normal time in that the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 was not finally put to bed until nine months after the constitutional deadline. Not to recount the vetoes and attempts to override since there is a word limit on this article but simply put, the Governor finally let the budget become law without his signature. Major sticking points were Governor Wolf’s tax increase proposals and his wish to increase spending in key areas such as education. There was also linkage between the State Budget and other issues important to Republican leadership – pension reform and liquor store privatization. A so-called ‘framework’ tried to link the budget and those other issues but it fell apart amid accusations of bad faith from both sides.

This linkage sets the stage for current budget deliberations. House Republicans continue to have privatization of state-run liquor stores a priority. Senate Republicans continue to press for pension reform which they say must be part of whatever is finally resolved.

Now there is a new linkage issue. On May 18, Governor Tom Wolf vetoed House Bill 805 (Bloom-R-Cumberland). This would have taken teacher seniority down from deciding who keeps their jobs in event of layoffs to one of several variables such as student proficiency measures. Proponents of the legislation say that seniority should not be the primary determinant since measurable teaching quality should take center stage.

In explaining his veto, the Governor said, “This bill relies heavily on a single score from the teacher evaluation system, as opposed to using the entire method of evaluation. At a time when there is bipartisan agreement that we need to reduce our reliance on high-stakes testing, we should not use high-stake test scores as the benchmark for teacher quality.”

This may or may not set the stage for a trade-off where the Governor gets additional money for education but the General Assembly gets House Bill 850. This new issue does not diminish the importance and linkage of pension reform and privatization. Rather, it makes the budget become once again what uses up all the oxygen in the room.
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To learn more about this great opportunity, contact one of the PA Co-Chairs!
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