



# Eagle Grange #1

Route 15 & East Blind Road  
Montgomery, PA 17752



February, 2021

## Blue Jacket Scholarships to be Given on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Five Milton FFA Students

Building upon years of public education support and advocacy for rural issues, Eagle Grange is pleased to announce a new partnership recognizing local youth. Nearby Milton Area High School has an active FFA vocational agriculture program involving many students, five of whom will be receiving Blue Jacket Scholarships at the next Grange meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Grange Hall. Face masks are required and social distancing will be observed.



The privilege to wear the distinctive blue FFA jacket is a much sought after goal. Realizing that many students and their families may need the assistance to obtain the jacket, Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association some years ago initiated the Blue Jacket Scholarships. Students who

apply for a jacket scholarship must explain their interest in agricultural education, define one goal they hope to achieve throughout their FFA career and identify what wearing the FFA jacket means to them. In recent years thanks to support from individuals and organizations like the Grange, more than 300 jacket scholarships have been provided annually across PA.

Founder of the Blue Jacket program, teacher Krista Pontius (right) will speak at the Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on the goals of awarding these annual scholarships. Mrs. Pontius is the FFA Advisor at Greenwood High School in Millerstown and an active Grange member/officer in Perry County. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University College of Agriculture, she was recently named one of three 2020 National Teach Ag Champions by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.



# ZOOM Meeting Connection Offered Again

The last Grange meeting held in January was a hybrid gathering with some attending in-person at the Grange Hall and others logged in by ZOOM. It worked well and much discussion took place during the program to plan 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. The next meeting on February 2 will also offer a ZOOM connection for those who prefer to participate remotely from the comfort of their home. You may join anytime after 6:15 p.m. either by phone or by computer.

## ZOOM Instructions to join 2/2/2021 meeting @ 6:30 p.m. if you choose not to attend in person.

### TO JOIN BY PHONE

1. Dial **1 (929) 436-2866**
2. You will hear: "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID followed by #"  
**Meeting ID: 821 9407 2167, Press #**
3. Next you will hear: "Enter your Participant ID followed by #. **There is no Participant ID, so just press the # key.**"
4. Next you will hear: "Please enter the Meeting Password followed by #."  
**Meeting Password: 433354, Press #**
5. Next you will hear: "You are in the meeting now. Please stand by."
6. Wait on the line for the meeting to begin. You'll begin to hear others talking as they also join the meeting.

### TO JOIN BY COMPUTER (You DO NOT need to create a Zoom account.)

1. Copy/paste or type the following link into your web browser:  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82194072167?pwd=NWFkNFWEZacXBWUE9TSVZld2hmUT09>**
2. You may need to enter a Meeting ID and Password.  
**Meeting ID: 821 9407 2167**  
**Password: 433354**
3. You will be asked how you wish to join your audio. Select "Join Audio by Computer" or "Join with Computer Audio".
4. You may next see a window asking you if you wish to join by video. Select which option you would prefer – "Join with Video" or "Join without Video"
5. Now you should have joined the meeting!
6. In the bottom left corner of your screen, you will see a microphone – you can mute and unmute yourself by clicking on that button. You will also see a videocamera – you can start and stop your video by clicking on that button.

**Please notify Jenn Nauss at 717-512-1261 in advance if you plan to join by phone or computer so we know to expect you for this meeting.**

# Building Improvements Continue to Progress

Neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor winter weather has slowed the on-going work to improve the facility usefulness and physical appearance Eagle Grange Hall. Overwhelmingly, rave reviews have been heard from members and visitors alike. The improvements have enabled the Grange to increase its activities and are generating increased rental usage of the property.

A number of faithful members have been giving many hours of volunteer labor to make this possible. At the head of the list is president David Troutman (shown below) doing everything from routine clean-up, painting and repairs. A motion formally commending and thanking David for his leadership was adopted at the last meeting.



A very welcome surprise came recently when an anonymous donor came forward to underwrite the \$2,000 cost of a new commercial refrigerator. The new unit has 35 cubic feet of storage space, more than twice that of the former home refrigerator previously in use. Also purchased was a small freezer; both arrived in late December.

## Pictures at right:

**Top:** Joann Murray and David Troutman cleaned and stocked the new unit.

**Middle:** A view of the new refrigerator and freezer.

**Bottom:** The new commercial stove installed in November and stainless steel work counters are visible in the renewed kitchen.



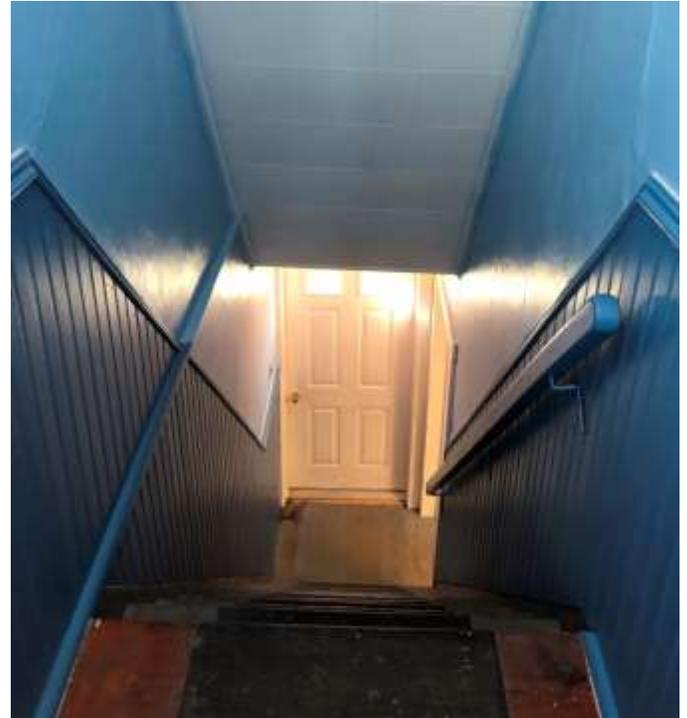
## Then there was light.....



Another gift financed the majority of the cost to improve lighting in the first floor meeting hall/dining room. The existing fluorescent fixtures were upgraded with energy efficient LED units to provide more lighting at decreased operational costs. This work was done by Voneida Electric which last fall gave and installed new light fixtures in the kitchen.



- After receiving several estimates, it appears the cost to install “split” units for year round climate control in the Grange Hall – *air conditioning and improved heating* – will be \$6,200. A pledged gift to cover half of this cost has been received. This gift along with available Grange funds should allow the project to commence soon.
- Secretary Jenn Nauss continues to research possible grants for which the Grange can apply. Grant monies could help finance two possible projects - building an outdoor pavilion and installation of a stair chairlift (see below).



Above is a shot of the recently painted stairwell leading to the second floor of the Grange Hall. That second floor is shown below before re-painting was begun mid-January. In the next newsletter you will see the finished refurbishment of this area.

## More Improvements

- The outdoor lighted sign has arrived and will soon start to advertise Grange events from a prominent position on the Grange property near the intersection of Route 15 and East Blind Road. The interchangeable letters will allow the message to be updated as needed.
- We now have a good supply of hot water! Replacement of the electric water heater with a propane on-demand unit was considered, but president Troutman was able to refurbish and repair the current system with new thermostats.



**Now we need to consider installing a chairlift on the stairs to make this space more accessible.**

**Don't Miss these.....**

## **Coming Events**

**February 2 – Grange meeting @ 6:30 p.m.;**  
FFA program and presentation of Blue Jacket  
Scholarships postponed from January  
**Hosts – David Troutman & Mike Wallis**

**February 12 – Work day @ 10 a.m.;** prepare  
for Valentine's take-out dinner; lunch provided

**February 13 – “Share the Love” free**  
*Valentine's take-out dinner; help needed @ 10*  
a.m.; lunch provided; meal pick-up by  
advance order from 2-4 p.m.

**March 2 – Grange meeting @ 6:30 p.m.;**  
program to be finalized.

**March 26 – Work day @ 10 a.m.;** prepare for  
Pork & Sauerkraut take-out dinner; lunch  
provided

**March 27 – Family Road Rally Scavenger Hunt**

**March 27 – Pork Loins & Homemade**  
*Sauerkraut take-out dinner; help needed @ 10*  
a.m.; lunch provided; meal pick-up by  
advance orders from 2-4 p.m.

## **Service Projects**

**Blue Jacket Scholarships – 2/2/2021**  
(see Page 1)

**Free Take-Out Dinner – 2/13/2021**  
(see page 6)

**Family Road Rally/Scavenger Hunt –**  
3/27/2021 (details forthcoming)

### **Dates Yet to be Confirmed**

**Spotted Lanternfly Workshop –**  
possibly joint with Farm Bureau

**Picnic Honoring local Veterans**

**Free Concert in the Park**

**Community Day**

## **Have you bought your 150<sup>th</sup> T-shirt yet?**

**Contact Jenn  
Nauss at any  
meeting or by  
calling 717-717-  
512-1261 to order  
the size(s) you  
need.**



## **Dues for 2021**

### **\$50/member payable now**

- If dues have been paid for 2021, your annual membership card is enclosed (Life Members previously received a permanent membership card)
- If dues have not yet been paid, a reminder notice is enclosed
- **Special Note to Delaware Grange Members** – the formal consolidation of Delaware into Eagle has not been finalized until the close of the property sale in Dewart; you will automatically become members of Eagle when the consolidation is completed and a 2021 dues notice sent to you at that time

## **Last Call for Kick-Off Luncheon Reservations**

The kick-off for the State Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021, beginning with an open house brunch at Eagle followed by a luncheon and program at Country Cupboard. As the first Grange in the state, Eagle members will have an important part in the program at this luncheon to spread the Grange light just as it happened 150 years ago. This is the last call for tickets; the price is \$25 each. Contact Secretary Jenn Nauss.

**Contact for Use of Eagle Grange Hall**  
**David Troutman 570-220-1685**

# "Share the Love" Take-Out Dinner

*Sponsored by Eagle Grange #1*

**Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021**



*A gift from the Grange sharing 150 meals in  
thanks for 150 years of community support*

**Stuffed chicken breast with gravy,  
mixed green salad with homemade celery seed sweet-sour dressing,  
party mashed potatoes, green beans amandine, pickles, cranberry relish,  
roll & butter, bottled water, red velvet cake with strawberry garnish**

*No charge for this meal; if you wish to "pay the love forward", donations  
will be accepted for community services & renewal of historic Grange Hall*

**Advance reservations required; limited to 150 meals**

Contact Joann Murray @ 570-547-1340

**Pick-up 2-4 p.m. @ Eagle Grange Hall**

Rt. 15 & East Blind Rd., Montgomery, PA

**Next Take-Out Dinner**

*Pork Loin & Homemade Sauerkraut – March 27, 2021*

See more scenes from the past in slide program later this year



1945 Junior Grange (above) and 1959 Junior Grange (below); Recognize those circled in yellow?



1971 Centennial Plate



1967 Tree Planting



2001 Historical Marker Dedication



Fair Exhibit – year unknown

## Eagle Grange #1

*c/o Douglas A. Bonsall*

*300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765*

*Dauphin, PA 17018-0765*



## February 2021 Newsletter



Two large anniversary banners celebrating Eagle Grange's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary were mounted on each end of the Grange Hall by president David Troutman on a bright crisp January Saturday,