



# Eagle Grange #1

Route 15 & East Blind Road, Montgomery, PA 17752

December 2023



## December 5<sup>th</sup> Holiday Dinner & Program

# Williamsport Native to Speak

*Our Favorite Holiday Traditions*” will be the topic of an illustrated program by Mr. John Maietta of Mechanicsburg (right) at the annual holiday potluck dinner of Eagle Grange #1 beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, in the Grange Hall at 32 East Blind Road, Montgomery. Advance reservations for this event are required and may be made by contacting Program Coordinator Doug Bonsall at [douglas.b@verizon.net](mailto:douglas.b@verizon.net) or by calling 717-921-1957. The Grange will provide place settings, meat and beverage; attendees are invited to bring a favorite casserole, salad or dessert to share.

A native of Williamsport, John Maietta retired from a lifelong public relations career in 2010. For many years he operated a successful free-lance business in the Harrisburg area, while simultaneously serving as a public affairs officer with the Pennsylvania National Guard. Now in his retirement living in the Harrisburg area, he has developed several dozen different presentations on history and culture that have become popular programs for audiences at libraries, retirement centers, civic meetings and other venues throughout the region.



The Grange's 2023 *“Community Citizen Award”* will be presented to **Mr. Benjamin Hepburn** of Williamsport in recognition of a 40-year career teaching agriculture science at Montoursville High School and his leadership of FFA and Farm Bureau programs in the area. Long-time Grange members will also be recognized for reaching these membership milestones: **70 years – Joann Murray; 40 years – Virginia Wertman; 25 years – Mike Wallis; 20 years – Dean & Gloria Ely, Richard Kelley, Phillip Vonada.**

## Remembering Friends in the Community

### Cookie Baking on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.



A new project this holiday season is the baking/packing/delivery of cookies toshut-ins and other friends in the area just after Thanksgiving. As this newsletter is being written, it looks like we will be packing 25 boxes of goodies so we need lots of cookies and people to help. Everyone please bring enough batter or dough (***bought is fine!***) to make at least five dozen cookies.

This same day we will also be decorating the Grange Hall so you can decide with which project you wish to help. Some of our decorators have already said they will bring their cookies already baked!

**Don't Forget - Please bring something to share for lunch.**

# November Turkey Dinner – The Biggest Yet!

A record profit of \$3,000+ was earned to support the Grange



It didn't take long for this crew of volunteers to peel 100 pounds of potatoes.



The next step toward "real" mashed potatoes was taking out the eyes and cutting them for cooking.



(above) Hilda Sampsell & Carol Riddell filled shells for a dozen of the popular coconut cream pies.

(below) Linda Byers, a Grange friend from Perry County, took care of the corn frozen last summer while Reba Crawford cooked and mashed all the potatoes.





(above) The bags for each meal are being packed with, just waiting (below) for the hot foods to be added.



The kitchen is a busy place as some of the 200 pounds of turkey is carved and other food prepared.



Jackie Murray (above) is all smiles at the gravy pot while the cashiers below are ready to greet guests.



There are always lots of dirty dishes to wash at take-out dinners.....ask Janet Reynolds and Ruth Lundy!!



# Eagle's "Wizard of Oz" Theme at Montgomery School Trunk or Treat



(Above) "Tin Man" Bernie Downey, "Scarecrow" Beth Downey, "Wizard" Phil Vonada, "Wicked Witch" Jackie Murray, "Dorothy" Jenn Nauss (note the ruby slippers)



# AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY



## Holiday Food Collection



Eagle Grange #1 and the Montgomery FFA Chapter are again working together to sponsor a food drive this holiday season to collect items for distribution by the Footprints of Montgomery food pantry to area residents in need.

There is a need for the following items:

- **Canned items:** meats (chicken, ham, tuna), stews/chili, pastas (spaghetti-Os), creamed corn/ beets/carrots, fruit, soups, bottled juices; **Basic condiments** (ketchup/mayonnaise); **Hygiene products** (deodorants, soaps, shampoo, toothpaste); **Laundry soap**; **Paper products** (towels/toilet tissue); **Coffee**
- **Currently there is NOT a need for:** mac & cheese, cereals, canned beans, sugar, tea, r ice, spaghetti, noodles

Donations may be dropped off at the following locations now through December 15, 2023:

- Eagle Grange Hall, 32 East Blind Road, Montgomery
- Montgomery High School, 120 Penn Street, High School Office
- St. John (Brick) Lutheran Church, 196 Brick Church Road, Montgomery
- Elimsport United Methodist Church, 16145 South State Route 44, Allenwood

Monetary donations to purchase additional items will also be gratefully accepted. Please make checks payable, to: Eagle Grange #1 noting "food collection" and mail to: Ruth Lundy, 597 Cemetery Drive, Hughesville, PA 17737.

**Thank you for helping to provide nutritious food to those in need.**

## National Grange Gathers in Niagara Falls



Eagle was recognized for its outstanding achievement during the past year by being one of 25 Granges in the nation named as a Distinguished Grange and one of just 10 receiving the additional "Golden" designation. At the National Grange "Night of Honors," outgoing National president Betsy Huber (left) and incoming National president Chris Hamp (right) offer their congratulations to Eagle officials Jenn Nauss, secretary, and Phil Vonada, president.



Over 600 persons attended the National Session to see the delegates at work determining Grange policy, to hear speakers on pertinent contemporary issues, to enjoy tours of the local area, to fellowship with members from throughout the country and to participate in a series of workshops like the one above where Phil Vonada and Jenn Nauss were panelists on a discussion about revitalizing a local Grange, sharing examples of Eagle's experience.

# COMING EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 25** – **Launch the Holiday Season**  
Decorating the Grange Hall; Baking & Packing of cookies for shut-ins – 10 a.m. (see Page 1)

**DECEMBER 5** – **Annual Holiday Dinner** - 6 p.m.  
Meat, beverage and place settings provided; bring a favorite casserole, salad or dessert to share (see Page 1)

Recognition of long-term members

Presentation of Community Citizen Award

Program - **Our Favorite Holiday Traditions** by Williamsport native John Maietta, professional speaker and retired public relations executive

- **Hosts** – Jenn Nauss & Doug Bonsall

**DECEMBER 16** – 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Jingle Bell Jamboree** for families and children – 1:30-3 p.m.

Volunteers to help with activity stations and to serve refreshments needed for set up at 12 noon (See Page 7)

**JANUARY 2** – Grange meeting – 6:30 p.m.  
Program: **2023 in Review & Planning the Future**

**Property Update** – As the year ends, we are thrilled to announce the finishing touches are being done on projects to light the outside sign, to replace the roof over the rear side entrance porch and to install an underground drain from the basement sump pump into the stone culvert along Route 15.



Past State Grange President Wayne Campbell spoke with enthusiasm at the November meeting about agricultural hemp, cannabis & medical marijuana.

## Have you paid your 2024 Grange dues yet?

Grange dues for 2024 remain at the current levels: \$50 for each adult and \$15 for youth members. The dues are shared \$15 to the National Grange and \$30 to the PA State Grange to provide support for local Granges and to maintain our legislative presence in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.

This leaves \$5 of your annual dues for the local Grange so, obviously, fund raising events and donations are relied upon to generate the additional funding needed for the local Grange to meet operating expenses, improve its facilities, make charitable donations and support service projects.

**If you are able, please consider making an additional donation to support Eagle Grange.** Every \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 gift helps move the Grange forward more quickly. **You may pay your 2024 dues to the Secretary in person at upcoming meeting on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Dues may also be mailed to the secretary:

**Jenn Nauss, 10 West Schoolside Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues enclosed (\$50/adult; \$15/youth)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation to Eagle Grange

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

**Make checks payable to: Eagle Grange #1**

HOSTED BY EAGLE GRANGE #1

# Jingle Bell Jamboree

A Free Holiday Open House for Families

**Saturday, December 16th**  
**1:30 - 3:00 pm**

Featuring:

- Visit and Pictures with Santa
- Photo Backdrop for Family Portraits
- Cookie Decorating
- Make-your-own Snacks and Crafts
- Games and Prizes
- Hot Cocoa and Snacks

**Eagle Grange Hall**  
**Route 15 & East Blind Road, Montgomery**

\* Limited to the first 50 people

\* All children must be accompanied by an adult

\* Advance registration required / accepted first come, first-served

Contact Jenn Nauss, [jnauss89@gmail.com](mailto:jnauss89@gmail.com), (717) 512-1261



# Eagle Grange #1

c/o Douglas A. Bonsall  
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## December 2023 Newsletter



During 2023 three Eagle Grange members designated a total of six Thrivent Financial “Action Team” grants of \$250 each to provide seed money supporting projects like take-out dinners, the Jingle Bell Jamboree, holiday food collection and blanket making. Each volunteer receives a special Thrivent t-shirt.