



Eagle Grange #1

Route 15 & East Blind Road, Montgomery, PA 17752

February 2024



FFA & Senator's Office to Visit – February 6th

Representative from Senator Gene Yaw's office and the members of Montgomery FFA are coming to Eagle Grange on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.

Thanks to some help from the PA State Grange, arrangements have been made **Ms. Liz Vollman** from the Senator's office to tour the Grange Hall before the meeting, preliminary to a discussion this evening about possible grants for which the Grange might qualify to apply. One of the goals for 2024 is to secure funding to install insulation and vinyl siding on the exterior of our 137 year-old hall.

Eagle Grange will also be pleased to welcome members of the Montgomery High School FFA Chapter on Feb. 6th. We continue to nurture the on-going relationship with this enthusiastic group of students under the leadership of advisor Chris Ulrich; they have assisted the Grange with the *Jingle Bell Jamboree* held the past two years. Vocational education programs like FFA came about many years ago due to the advocacy of the National Grange.



Receiving and wearing the distinctive navy blue FFA jacket marks a student's initiation in this nationwide group which go far beyond agriculture education to also teach leadership, citizenship and community service. Eagle Grange recently sponsored two jackets designated for local students. The jackets were awarded to them and several hundred other new FFA members at the PA Farm Show in January.

While visiting with us at the Grange, the FFA will demonstrate their formal opening/closing procedures and recite the FFA Ceed. Please join us for this evening starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Grange Hall (*in case of a snow cancellation, the meeting will be held the following day, February 7th*). Refreshments will be served following the program; the hosts for the evening will be Katy Moser & Karen Schooley.

The winter meeting of the Northcentral PA Pomona Grange (Lycoming & Montour Counties), postponed from January 20th, has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 27th, beginning with a potluck lunch at 12 noon in the Allegheny Grange Hall near Huntersville. All welcome!

Another Active, Busy Year Planned

An enthusiastic group of Eagle Grange members and friends met January 2nd to discuss and plan the 2024 calendar of events. Since those initial discussions, much work has been going on behind the scenes to check into suggestions and actually get things finalized. Here's where the schedule stands now but there will likely be more changes/additions as details are worked out; watch future newsletters for updates.

Date	Type of Event	Hosts
2/6/2024	Regular meeting; FFA Blue Jacket Night ; Liz Vollman from Senator Yaw's Office; demonstration by FFA members	Katy Moser & Karen Schooley
2/9-10/2024	Fleece blanket making & preparation/serving of free "Share the Love" take-out Lasagna Dinner	
3/5/2024	Leap Year potluck dinner – Music & inspiration Adapting to Today's Reality by KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner of Lewisburg	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
3/9/2024	Eagle hosts/serves lunch for State Grange Leadership Conference	
3/15/2024	(tentative) Lenten Loaded Baked Potato Night	
3/22-23/2024	Preparation/serving - take-out Pork & Sauerkraut (or stuffing) Dinner	
4/2/2024	Regular meeting; " Soils & Soil Landscapes of Central PA " by Sharon Waltman of Washingtonville, retired US Dept. of Agriculture	Phil Vonada
4/27/2024	Cooking for Crowds food safety course – 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Taught by Kaitlin Pander from Penn State Cooperative Extension	
5/7/2024	Regular meeting; My Journey to Becoming a Writer by Bonnie Swinehart of Liverpool, author of Benjy children's book series	Ruth Lundy & Janet Reynolds
5/10-11/2024	Preparation/serving - take-out Roast Beef Dinner	
6/4/2024	Regular meeting; History of the American Flag by Rudy Mummey, retired educator from Lewisburg	Patty Peterman
6/21-22/2024	Preparation/serving - take-out Baked Ham Dinner	
7/2/2024	Outing/tour of Warrior Run Church, Watsonstown – Revolutionary War historic site	Karen Williamson
8/6/2024	Regular meeting; Bees, Pollination & Honey Production by Davey Hackenberg of Hackenberg Apiaries, Lewisburg	<i>Volunteer(s) needed</i>
9/3/2024	Outing to Four Friends Winery (Cemetery Road, 1-1/2 miles from Grange Hall) – vineyard tour & wine making demonstration	Tammy Rupert
9/27-28/2024	Preparation/serving - take-out Stuffed Chicken Breast Dinner	
10/1/2024	Installation of Officers for Granges of Pomona district	Joann Murray
11/1-2/2024	Preparation/serving - take-out Roast Turkey Dinner	
11/6/2024	Regular meeting; (<i>note change from second Tuesday</i>) Women of the American Revolution by Mark & Valerie Devecchis of McClure	Libby Green
12/3/2024	Holiday dinner; Community Citizen Award presentation *Entertainment to be confirmed	Doug Bonsall; Jenn Nauss

Additional Planned Activities Not Yet Confirmed

- Outing to Williamsport Crosscutters baseball game
- Dedication of Luke Eger & Frank Porter markers @ Mt. Zion Cemetery + picnic for “daughter” Granges
- Outdoor Movie Night
- Financial Seminar in cooperation with Thrivent

Property Improvements

- Investigate installation of roller glides on kitchen cabinet drawers
- Contact Penn College re: shrubbery replacement project by students
- Secure estimates for insulation/siding of Grange Hall exterior & for installation of elevator
- Search for grants to fund major project(s) immediately above

Community Service Projects

- FFA Blue Jacket scholarships
- Fleece blanket making for nursing home(s)
- Sponsorship of workshops - **Cooking for Crowds** food safety + Financial Seminar
- Community outdoor movie night
- Continue to promote agriculture with exhibits at local fairs
- Support worthy causes with financial donations

Finally, a quick survey yielded the following results:

Question	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
1. I know all there is to know about the Grange.		1	11
2. I think it is important to remember that our Grange is part of the Pomona, State and National Granges.	7	5	
3. I would like to learn more about the Grange and what it does at its various levels.	4	5	
4. I look forward to Eagle Grange meetings.	11	1	
5. I think the fellowship at Grange activities is important.	12		
6. I like a mix of different types of Grange meetings – some formal, some informal, some special outings	10	2	
7. I believe that serving the community should be the primary focus of Eagle Grange.	10	1	1
8. I'd like to see our Grange do more to serve the community.	6	5	1
9. I think that holding about 6 take-out dinners as fund raisers annually is the right number.	10	2	
10. We should continue to improve our facilities at Eagle Grange.	10	1	1
11. The Grange must change if it is to survive in the future.	9	3	
12. I am open to change and trying new things at Eagle Grange.	11	1	
13. I am willing to take an active part in Grange activities.	11	1	



Bringing Warmth to Others

A service project now in its second year at Eagle Grange is the making and donating of tied fleece blankets. Last year 19 completed blankets warmed the homeless through the outreach program of the Williamsport YWCA. This year we will surpass that number with about a dozen blankets already done and delivered to the Wolf Run Senior Living Village in Hughesville.



(left) The first batch of blankets made during the Jingle Bell Jamboree in December were delivered to Wolf Run by Tom & Daisy Styer. The center was thrilled to receive the blankets, saying their supply for guests was completely exhausted.

(above) On a cold January day a group gathered at the Grange Hall to tackle a number of tasks, including the making of more blankets. From left to right – Patty Peterman Ruth Lundy, Daisy Styer, Jackie Murray and Tom Styer trimmed, measured, cut and tied more blankets while other Grange volunteers packed the Christmas decorations for storage and completed a major clean-out/reorganization of the first floor storage room (*pictures on Page 6*).

A \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant has been received to buy materials to make more blankets on Feb. 9-10.

Coming Events

February 6 – Grange meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Program – **FFA Blue Jacket scholarship presentation**
Video of FFA-Grange cooperation and demonstration of FFA opening ceremony

- Hosts – Katy Moser & Karen Schooley

February 9– Blanket making + work day for take-out dinner & blanket making - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch

February 10 – “Share the Love” Lasagna Take-Out Dinner; details on Page 7. Help needed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch.

March 5 – **Leap Year Potluck Dinner** – 6:00 p.m.

Everyone bring something to share for the meal; see Page 6 for food ideas to celebrate Leap Year

Program – **Adapting to Today’s Realities**

- Host – Volunteer(s) needed

March 9 – State Grange Leadership Conference @ Eagle – host Grange serves lunch

March 15 – (tentative) Lenten Loaded Baked Potato Night

March 22– Work day for take-out dinner - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch

March 23 - Roast Pork Take-Out Dinner with homemade sauerkraut or stuffing/gravy. Help needed from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; bring something to share for lunch.

Welcome, New Member

Eagle Grange #1

Serving the community since 1871



Patty Peterman of Montgomery was officially welcomed as a new member of Eagle Grange in January, 2024. She has quickly become a regular participant in meetings and activities.

Searching for Grants

Jenn Nauss has recently completed an application for a mini-grant from the PA Historical & Museum Commission that, if received, would provide \$1,000 for Eagle to microfilm/digitize its records from 1996 to the present and to purchase fire proof containers to safely store all of our original (paper) records dating from 1871. Eagle records from 1871-1996 were previously microfilmed by the State Archives while that agency was providing this service at no charge to Granges; that free service is no longer available.

We are also working with the PA State Grange and state legislators in hopes of finding other larger grants that would help Eagle install energy saving insulation/vinyl siding on the exterior of the hall. This project has been considered a number of times since the 1970's but cost has been the stumbling block.

Roast Pork Loin Take-Out Dinner

Served with choice of Homemade Sauerkraut OR Stuffing & Gravy

Sat., March 23, 2024

Sponsored by Eagle Grange #1

Roast Pork Loin with Homemade Sauerkraut OR Stuffing & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Succotash, Applesauce, Pickled Beets, Roll & Butter, Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Suggested Donation - \$13



Advance reservations strongly suggested*

Contact Daisy Styer @ 570-546-5861

*Meals cannot be guaranteed without reservations

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

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

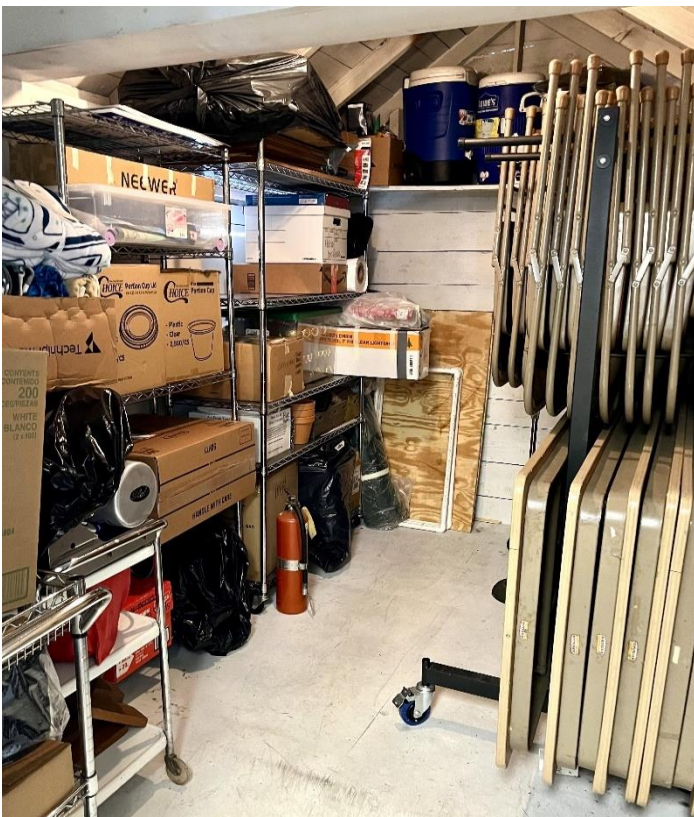
Next Take-Out Dinner

Roast Beef with Stuffing – May 11, 2024

Cleaning & Organizing



Doug Bonsall, Joann Murray & Jenn Nauss spent several hours cleaning and organizing the first floor storage room in the Grange Hall on January 20th while other volunteers were making fleece blankets. With the addition of another set of metal shelving and removal of some accumulated junk, the results below are clear- dinner supplies, seasonable items, tables/chairs and equipment are now neatly organized and much more accessible than the previous jumble.



State Grange Lecturer (our own Jenn Nauss) and other state department heads will be conducting a leadership conference for Grangers throughout central PA on Saturday, March 9th at Eagle. As the host Grange, we will be serving lunch and need several volunteers. Contact Doug Bonsall if you are willing to help.

Celebrating Leap Year

Every four years we have a Leap Year, which means a day is added to the end of February (the shortest month) called Leap Day. The extra day - **February 29th** - is a corrective measure that synchronizes the calendar with the earth's almost year-long orbit around the sun. Without Leap Day, a few hours would cumulatively disappear every year, eventually throwing off our calendar and seasons.

For the past couple years, the Grange has been having a potluck dinner at its March meeting to say goodbye to winter. Leap Year will be the theme of our March 5th dinner meeting. After doing some research on the internet, we've found some foods that were either first introduced or were particularly popular in Leap Years during the past 70 years or so.

- (1952) - Salisbury Steak
- (1956) - Banana Cream Pie; Grasshopper Pie
- (1960) - Molded Jello Salads
- (1964) - Swedish Meatballs
- (1968) - Carrot Cake w/ cream cheese icing
- (1972) - Granola
- (1976) - Chicken Kiev
- (1980) - Potato Skins
- (1984) - Tiramisu
- (1988) - Bran Muffins
- (1992) - Ranch Dressing (of course, with salad)
- (1996) - Sundried Tomatoes
- (2000) - Gourmet Cupcakes
- (2004) - Green Tea
- (2008) - Pesto
- (2012) - Brussell Sprouts
- (2016) - Avocados

Please look over this list and consider using one or more of these items to make a dish (or two) to share for the evening. Use your creativity and experiment to come up with something unique for our buffet.

KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner from Lewisburg will entertain and inspire us at this celebration of Leap Year. KJ is one of our Grange members, having joined after her first appearance with us back in 2020. She is a singer and motivational speaker who has performed throughout the United States and England. More details about her program will appear in the next newsletter.....***you won't want to miss it!***

Invite your family and friends to reserve the date – **March 5, 2024** – and join us for a great evening!

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for providing this project with a \$250 Action Team "seed money" grant to buy food supplies for this project.

3rd Annual "Share the Love" Take-Out Lasagna Dinner

Sat., Feb. 10, 2024

Snow Date – Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024

A gift from Eagle Grange #1 to the community

Homemade lasagna, garlic bread, mixed green salad with homemade celery seed dressing, applesauce, angel food cake with strawberries



No charge for this meal; if you wish to "pay the love forward", donations will be accepted to support the Grange's services to the community

**Advance reservations strongly suggested;
meals limited to first 200 reservations**

Contact Daisy Styer @ 570-546-5861

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 23, 2024

Eagle Grange #1

c/o Douglas A. Bonsall
300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765
Dauphin, PA 17018-0765



February 2024 Newsletter

Plans for Exciting 2024 Made; Announced



The January 2 2024, Grange meeting was a particularly production one! After a pictorial review of the past year's activities (above), an ambitious schedule of programs, special events, fund raisers and service projects developed and plans made to implement the ideas. See Pages 2-3 for a preview of those plans.