Pennsylvania's First Grange **Serving the community since 1871**

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Eagle Grange #1

Route 15 & East Blind Road, Montgomery, PA 17752

March 2025

The New Look of the Grange Hall

This building near Montgomery has been the home of Eagle Grange since it was built in 1887. Originally it stood on the opposite side of Route 15 on a quarter acre of land sold to Pennsylvania's very first Grange by its founder Luke Eger for the sum of $20. It was moved to its present location at 32 East Blind Road in 1940 when the highway was widened.

The rear addition with partial basement was added in 1968 to provide indoor restrooms and more adequate kitchen facilities; later new windows and doors were installed. Minutes in 1970 mention the first discussion about the need for insulation and siding, a project considered multiple times over many years. This major improvement, now completed with the exception of some decorative trim around the windows, provides a maintenance free vinyl exterior and improved energy efficiency. Thanks to all who contributed to or helped to raise the $34,000+ needed to make this project a reality just in time for Eagle's 154th anniversary on March 4th.

Another “Block Buster” Service Project

The annual “Share the Love” dinner on Feb. 1st provided 209 free lasagna meals to the community. Most receiving meals chose to “pay the love forward” and donated generously to support the Grange.

(above & below) Lots of hands work to pack the various parts of each meal in individual containers.

Volunteers sit down to enjoy lunch, a few minutes of rest and lots of conversation at each take-out dinner.

(above) Reba Crawford, Joann Murray and Doug Bonsall prepared 15 pans of lasagna while (below) Daisy Styer was one of the several workers who kept the pots, pans and dishes from piling up.

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 1 – Family Movie Night - 6:00 p.m.
- *See Page 6*; helpers needed

MARCH 4 – **PA Dutch Night Potluck – 6:00 p.m.**
Program – ***Visit the Amish with Katie King***
- *See Page 8*

Hosts – *Jenn Nauss, Doug Bonsall*

MARCH 21 – Work day for take-out dinner – 10 a.m.; bring something to share for lunch;

MARCH 22– Take-out Pork Loin Dinner with homemade sauerkraut OR filling/gravy – *See Page 7*

- Help needed starting @ 10 a.m.
- Please donate baked goods for sale table

MARCH 22 – Deadline to order sandwiches from Pomona Grange sale; *details below*

APRIL 1 –– **Grange meeting – 6:30 p.m.**
Program – ***Plein Air Painting***
by local artist Elizabeth England

Hosts – *Janet Reynolds, Karen Williamson*

Pomona Grange Sandwich Sale

Northcentral Pomona Grange #29 (Lycoming & Montour Counties) is sponsoring a sandwich sale on Tuesday, April 1st. Sandwich choices are turkey & cheese OR ham & Cheese - $5 each. Orders due by 3/22/2025 to Shirley Brown @ 570-482-3605. An order list will be circulated at Eagle's March 4th meeting and arrangements made to deliver orders to the Grange Hall for pick up at the April 1st meeting.

Our Lovely Hostesses for the February Meeting

20 Blankets Made for Shelter

Volunteers (above & below) worked several days this winter to make blankets for the Family Promise Shelter.

Part of materials purchased with $250 Thrivent grant

Grange to Collect Plastic – Goal is 1,000 pounds

Eagle Grange has partnered with the NexTrex Corp. to recycle used plastic bags & film (details below) into items like the bench shown at the left. We have until April 30, 2026 to collect half a ton of plastics, benefitting the world's environment, and enough to earn a bench for the local park. You may put your plastics into the large covered trash can on the rear back porch of the hall. ***Please note that all plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.***

What Kinds of Plastic Can Be Recycled?

The Grange Gives; The Grange Receives

Chet Shaffer (left), President of Allegheny Grange #1843, receives Eagle's $500 donation for their building repairs from Treasurer Patty Peterman

Bill Rhone (left) recently surprised Eagle with the gift of a handmade stained glass Grange emblem to hang in the hall. Accepting is Program Chair Doug Bonsall.

Hall Packed for Annual FFA Night

Montgomery FFA shared a slide show highlighting its many activities and projects during the past year.

Special recognition was given to three persons who have received the highest individual award given by the Pennsylvania FFA. Landyn Rine (left) and Madison Burleigh (right) received FFA Keystone Degree at the 2025 PA Farm Show. Tom Styer (center) received the Degree 60 years ago in 1965, the last Montgomery student to receive it prior to this year.

Ms. Bethany Comp, Assistant Director of Admissions for Lycoming College, spoke about how her involvement in Perry County's Greenwood FFA led "a quiet, awkward, little kid to flourish into a passionate, extroverted, and outgoing individual."

Property Updates

- Installed ultraviolet light water treatment system
- Purchased three fire exintguishers for first floor of hall; an anonymous donor has given a fourth for the second floor

- Approved landscaping plan designed by Penn College of Technology Earth Sciences students as presented by Horticulture Professor Carl Bower (above); planting to take place this spring

EAGLE GRANGE #1

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

EAGLE GRANGE HALL

32 East Blind Rd., Montgomery

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

ARRIVE AT 6 PM;
MOVIE BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

FREE Admission and Snack Bar

Bring your own blankets or chairs!

Limited to First 50 RSVPs
RSVP at https://bit.ly/grangemovienight
or contact Jenn at jnauss89@gmail.com or (717) 512-1261

Roast Pork Loin Take-Out Dinner

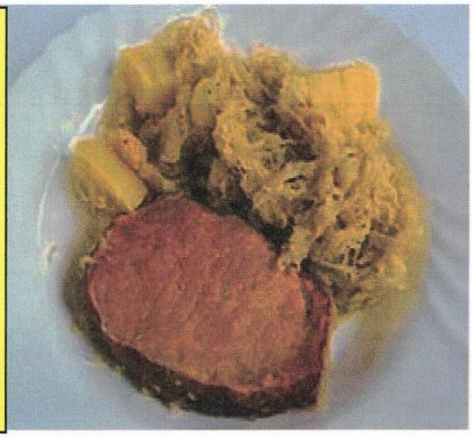
Served with choice of Homemade Sauerkraut OR Stuffing & Gravy

Sat., March 22, 2025

Sponsored by Eagle Grange #1

Roast Pork Loin with Homemade Sauerkraut OR Stuffing & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Mixed Vegetables, Applesauce, Homemade Pickles, Roll & Butter, Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Suggested Donation - $14



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 3, 2025

Eagle Grange #1
c/o Douglas A. Bonsall
300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765
Dauphin, PA 17018-0765

March 2025
Newsletter

March 4, 2025 @ 6 p.m.

PA Dutch Night

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday/Fasnacht Day at the Grange! Meat (ham loaf), place settings and beverages (root beer & birch beer) will be provided for the potluck meal; everyone is asked to bring a traditional PA Dutch casserole, salad or dessert to share. To make a reservation and/or to get some sample recipes, contact Doug Bonsall at 7-921-1957 or douglas.b@verizon.net.

A program exploring traditional Amish wedding foods, funeral dinners, school lunches, every day meals and growing/preserving foods will be given by Katie King (right) and her daughter **Rachel Williamson**. Katie *(that's the traditional Amish spelling),* now married to an "Englisher", was raised Amish in the Elimsport area and presents programs to share the simple lifestyle and unique culture of the "Plain People". We look forward to their story!