

Updates to Lecturer's Department Contests due to COVID-19

The Lecturer's Department is announcing several updates and changes to the Guide to Contests and Programs due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Talent Goes Virtual

Because of the cancellation of Family Festival, the Talent Show for 2020 will be held virtually. Members are encouraged to submit video recordings of their talents, which will be presented in an online format. The classes and rules will remain the same. It will be determined if this will be a contest or an exhibition for 2020.

Classes:

1. Instrumental
2. Vocal
3. Variety/Other Acts

Division:

1. Subordinate (14+)

Rules:

1. Time Limit: No minimum; all acts will be held to a 5-minute maximum.
2. Participants must provide their own accompaniment (either live or recorded).
3. Best of Show winner from the previous year may not enter the Talent Contest in the same class the following year.

The Virtual Talent Show will be held on Saturday, July 18th (the original date during Family Festival). More information about how to view and/or join the Talent Show will be shared closer to the time. Talent videos should be submitted by Saturday, July 4th to allow adequate time to compile videos for the Talent Show. Videos may be submitted by email or Cloud link to jnauss89@gmail.com or submitted on Flash Drive or CD to:

Jenn Nauss
10 West Schoolside Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Introducing a New Report to Replace the Community Night/Day/Open House Report

The Lecturer's Department is well aware of the fact that many Granges may have needed to postpone or cancel their Open Houses for this year because of the COVID-19 crisis. In recognition of this and to honor the work of Lecturers during these unprecedented times, we are introducing a new program – ***Creative Connections***.

This report will take the place of the Open House report form. There will be three divisions.

- Division A – Granges who were able to hold their Open House – “We had our Open House and here is what it looked like...”
- Division B – Granges who had planned their Open House but could not hold it – “We had our Open House planned, but could not have it. Here is what it would have looked like...”
- Division C – Granges who could not hold their Open House – “Because of COVID-19, we could not have our Open House. Here is what we did instead...”

Granges who fall in Division A can complete the form similar to how they would have completed the Open House form in the past.

Granges who fall in Division B can complete the form similar to how they would have in the past, except some information will be unknown (like number of attendees). Lecturers should fill out the form with as much information and supporting documents as they have to show what their Open House would have looked like if they would have been able to have it.

Division C is designed to acknowledge that many Lecturers and Granges have found ways to share the Grange Story in their communities in ways other than a traditional Open House. Perhaps your Grange is holding virtual meetings with programs to engage your members. Maybe your Grange is finding unique ways to serve your community during this time. Whatever your Grange is doing to connect with your members and the community during this time of social distancing is important and is worthy of acknowledgement. If your Grange’s outreach during this time has been community service, you can report on that in both this report and your Community Service Report.

There will still be membership classes in each division:

1. Pomona
2. Subordinate – Up to 50 members
3. Subordinate – Between 51 and 99 members
4. Subordinate – 100 or more members

Because of this change, winning Granges in each division and class will receive a framed Certificate of Excellence in lieu of a plaque for this year.

New COVID-19 Classes

New Classes have been added to the Pen in Hand and Photography Contests.

Pen in Hand

- NEW Class – “One thing I learned during Social Distancing...”

- Be creative with this! This could be a poignant life lesson learned during the COVID-19 crisis. It could be a new skill or hobby that you have picked up with extra time on your hands. It could be a humorous piece.
- 500 word maximum
- All other Pen in Hand rules should be followed as detailed in the Guide to Contests and Programs

Photography

- NEW Class – “Beauty in the Midst of Crisis”
 - This is also a class that allows for a lot of flexibility and interpretation! Maybe you have taken a photo of some beautiful flowers growing in your garden. Maybe you have taken a photo of your Grange’s community service work during this time. Maybe you took a photo of a child or grandchild while you have been home. Use your imagination and hone your photography skills.
 - All Photography rules should be followed as detailed in the Guide to Contests and Programs.

All other Contests and Programs are being continued. This is the perfect time to work on your “My Favorite Anything” entry or work on submitting your programs for the “Design a Program” contest.