CARL H. MEISS III

23rd MASTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE

THE PERSON

Carl was born in Hazleton, Luzerne County but grew up in Cumberland County. After high school he attended West Point and then served as a police officer for 27 years, retiring in 2002

He married Judy Boyer in 1977 and in 1979 they purchased property and moved into the 5-mile limit of Three Mile Island in York County on the day of the TMI accident. He, Judy, and their son Travis joined Valley



Grange #1360 in York County in 1996 after looking for an organization that all three of them could participate in. He had also been recruited to help at the Milkshake Booth at the PA Farm Show for years by Past Master Luther Snyder's family.

After his retirement in 2002, he was hired by the PA State Grange Master Betsy Huber as the Membership/Public Relations Director. During his eight years in that capacity, he assisted the State Master in Chartering four new Granges and re-organizing countless more as well as modernizing the "Grange Advocate.

Carl was elected as State Master in 2002 and served two terms. During that time, he Chartered one new Grange in Schuylkill County and worked diligently to save as many struggling Granges as possible. He also served on the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School Board of Overseers.

Carl remains an active member of Valley Grange #1360 in York County as well as York/Adams Pomona Grange #40 where he has served as Master as both Valley and Pomona Granges.

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE ORDER

- Two PA Grange Family Picnics held
 - o DelGrosso's Park, Blair County
 - o Knoebels Park, Northumberland/Columbia County
- Past Master Huber was left as the only member of the PA Grange Service Corporation when the the 139th Annual Session was held at the Holiday Inn, Harrisburg.
- Credentials Committee reported
 - o 165 Subordinate Delegates representing 99 Subordinate Granges
 - o 56 Pomona Delegates representing 32 Pomona Granges
- Sixth Degree conferred on 24 candidates
- Granger of the Year Braden Gourley, Hookstown Grange #1980, Beaver County
- Membership Award Helen Coughanour, Rostraver Grange #919, Westmoreland County
- \$1,000 donated toward sponsorship of the "Today's Ag" exhibit presented by the PA Alliance for Livestock Well-being
- \$1,300 plus \$365.52 collected raised from State Officers Basket Raffle for the PA Grange Foundation
- Versant Strategies contracted to track legislative bills and regulations pertinent to State Grange policies.
 Betsy Huber hired as part-time Legislative Liaison.
- Created a Disaster Relief Fund.

- Heritage Quilt Block Trail 28 Quilt blocks currently displayed on Grange buildings
- other members of the Board resigned in 2010. The State Grange Executive Committee had taken over and negotiated a contract with Geisinger Health Plan to continue coverages. The State Grange received a bill for \$350,000 for unpaid premiums to Geisinger.
- The PA Grange Credit Union merged with Service First of Danville.
- The following Mission Statement was developed: The PA State Grange supports the local Granges to help members grow as individuals, unify their communities and create opportunity through legislation and service.
- State Master Meiss became ill and on March 3, 2014, Overseer Richard Mangel was named Interim Master. He served until May 30, 2014 when Master Meiss returned to the office and rescinded the interim appointment.
- There were 9,363 Subordinate members in 253 Subordinate Granges including 51 Associate members

LEGISLATIVE

- The Delegates voted that the PA State Grange continue to support an impact fee payment program for natural gas exploration and production and opposed a severance tax.
- The Delegates asked for the development of a registry of pipelines and their locations, and their operators.
- The Delegates voted for the creation of a national roster of medical professionals who had been convicted of a felony and/or barred from practicing medicine.
- The Delegates approved a resolution encouraging the establishment of unisex family restrooms in public places.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- The annual talent contest was moved from the State Session to the Family Festival.
- Began the establishment of a six region plan for hosting the State Sessions
- The Delegates approved a resolution to send to National Grange requesting the complete elimination of the use of the Annual Word.
- Reprinting of the 1972 PA State Grange cookbook was requested by the Delegates.
- Approved the use of an online E-membership category, already sanctioned by the National Grange.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES

- The Delegates approved a resolution asking for legislation to reduce the size of the Legislative Staff of the General Assembly.
- Favored laws to prohibit state and federal legislators from receiving salary payments, expenses or benefits while there was no approved budget in place.
- Favored the loss of pension benefits for any public official convicted of corruption.
- Favored the repeal of the COLA law for state legislators.

LECTURER

- Eighth Family Festival held
- Community Night Reports
 - Under 90 members Barbara Schroeder, Hamburg Grange #2103, Berks County
 - o Over 90 members Emily Dietrich, Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County
 - o Pomona Susan Tau, Crawford County #26
- Talent Best of Show Jennifer Nauss, Valley Grange #1360, York County

DEAF & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Donated \$1,000 to Operation Shoebox for mailing costs in addition to items collected at Family Festival
- Community Service Reports
 - o Subordinate Under 75 Members
 - 1st Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County
 - 2nd Hamburg Grange #2103, Berks County
 - 3rd Wesley Grange #1675, Venango County
 - Honorable Mention Roseville Grange #1290, Jefferson County
 - Subordinate Over 75 Members
 - 1st Valley Grange #1360, York County
 - 2nd Big Knob Grange #2008, Beaver County
 - 3rd Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford County
 - Honorable Mention Kutztown Grange #1836, Berks County
 - o Pomona
 - 1st Montour-Northumberland-Union #31
 - 2nd Lehigh-Northampton #68
 - 3rd Huntingdon #6

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- 170 blankets donated to Ronald McDonald Houses
- Director of Year
 - o Pomona Joanne Heim, Lehigh-Northampton #68
 - o Subordinate Ruth Walker, Buffalo Grange #1523, Washington County

JUNIORS

- Junior Grange Supporter of the Year Elizabeth Downey, Lycoming County
- National Grange awarded eight Super JG Awards
 - o Jenna Sattazahn, Berks County
 - o Daniel Pratt, Venango County
 - o Ricky Wike, Berks County
 - Derek Snyder, York County
 - o Joshua & Jacob Mengel, Berks County
 - o Casey Kerschner, Berks County
 - o Jennifer Reed, Berks County
- Juniors and Youth/Young Adults held a combined Lock-In at Perry Valley Grange, Perry County
- Junior Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills had 35 campers in attendance
- 2011-12 Junior Prince Derek Snyder, York County and Junior Princess Katrina Darmofol, Berks County

YOUTH-YOUNG ADULTS

- National Grange first runner-up National Youth Mentor Jennifer Nauss, York County
- Youth Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills with 32 campers
- 2011-12 Youth Ambassadors Tyler Sattazahn, Berks County and Samantha Gourley, Beaver County
- 2011-12 Young Couple Matt & Miranda Irons, Warren County
- Friend of Youth Award Elizabeth Downey, Lycoming County
- 2011 National Youth Ambassador Patrick Wadsworth, Chester County

NATIONAL GRANGE

- Elizabethtown Area #2016 and Russellville #91 were recognized as Distinguished Granges
- Betsy Huber was re-elected to the National Grange Executive Committee

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE ORDER

- The 140th Annual Session was held at the Day's Inn, Butler
- Credentials Committee reported
 - o 142 Subordinate Granges Delegates
 - o 54 Pomona Grange Delegates
 - o 38 Juniors and 8 chaperones
 - o 135 Guests were registered
- Sixth Degree conferred on 34 candidates
- Granger of the Year Chester Tau, Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford County
- State Officers basket auction and donations totaled \$3,714 for the PA Grange Foundation
- Organized New Freedom Grange #2108, Greene County and Elizabethtown Area (#2074) Junior Grange, Lancaster County
- There were 8,881 Subordinate members in 245 Subordinate Granges including 35 Associate members and 1,532 Lifetime members. There were 200 Junior Grange members.
- State Grange settled with Geisinger Health Plan for \$50,000 as payment in full
- Past State and National Master John Scott passed away February 10, 2012
- Ten new quilt blocks placed on Grange halls and community buildings. Thirty-one additional blocks were placed in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the PA Association of County Fairs
- Executive Committee voted to discontinue the Grange Family of the Year and continue the Granger of the Year award
- Nine Granges were disbanded
- State Grange adopted a Convention District Plan to be effective with the 2015 Convention

LEGISLATIVE

- The Delegates called for the elimination of unfunded mandates for public schools. They also asked that private and charter schools be held to the same evaluation standards as public schools.
- The State Inheritance Tax was eliminated; the Realty Transfer Tax was eliminated when a farm is reorganized as a farm business.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

• The Delegates approved a change in the State Grange By-Laws to require the elections of Pomona and Subordinate officers, as well as installations, be held prior to the annual session.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES

- The Delegates requested that highways with safety barriers be provided with more escape locations for stranded vehicles.
- Encouraged the provision of WiFi services at all Turnpike Service Plazas.
- Asked for refinement of the state real estate tax laws to make it easier and more uniform for local Grange Hall exemptions from property taxes.

LECTURER

- Hosted Mid-Atlantic Lecturers' Conference at Scotch Valley Grange, Blair County
- Talent Best of Show Ken Ramirez, Chester County
- Community Night reports
 - o 76-149 members Tammy Schaeffer, Berks County
 - o Under 75 members Marleen Miller, Berks County
 - o 150+ members Emily Dietrich, Berks County
 - o Pomona Susan Tau, Crawford County #26

DEAF & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Donated \$1,000 to Shoe Box Operation for postage at Family Festival. The program was changed to Dino's Operation Shoebox in his memory
- National A \$250 grant for Deaf Awareness presented to Plumsteadville #1738, Bucks County
- Community Service Reports
 - o Subordinate Under 75 members
 - 1st Atlantic Grange #344, Crawford County
 - 2nd Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County
 - 3rd Schnecksville Grange #1684, Lehigh County
 - o Subordinate Over 75 members
 - 1st Hayfield Grange #800, Crawford (report sent to National Grange)
 - 2nd Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County
 - 3rd Walker Grange #786, Juniata County
 - o Pomona
 - 1st Bucks #22
 - 2nd Lehigh-Northampton #68
 - 3rd Montour-Northumberland-Union #31

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Directors of the Year
 - o Pomona Denise Clair, Hamburg Grange #2103, Berks County
 - o Subordinate Doris Koenig, Central Grange #1650, Lehigh County
- Family Activities Committee donated \$1,000 to Grange Foundation and Family Activities Committee members donated \$100 in honor of Ginny Mangel, Director
- Tote of Hope Red Cross project donated 3,000 plus items that were collected at Family Festival

JUNIORS

- State Junior Grange Supporter of the Year Stacy Bruker, Perry County
- Held a Joint Lock-In with Youth-Young Adults at Perry Valley Grange in the east and Hookstown Grange in the west
- Junior Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills with 35 campers
- 2012-13 Junior Prince Joshua Mengel and Hannah Leibensperger both of Berks County

YOUTH-YOUNG ADULTS

- Friend of Youth Supporter Stacy Bruker, Perry County
- Held a Joint Lock-In with Juniors at Perry Valley Grange in the east and Hookstown Grange in the west

- National Grange Eastern Youth Regional Matt Espenshade, Elizabethtown Grange, Lancaster County received Best of Show
- Youth Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills with 35 in attendance
- 2012-13 Youth Ambassadors Ben Wadsworth, Chester County and Ashley Mohn, Berks County
- 2012-13 Young Couple Matt & Miranda Irons, Warren County, served for the second year

NATIONAL GRANGE

Elizabethtown Area and Russellville Granges were again recognized as Distinguished Granges.

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE ORDER

- The 141st Annual Session was held in State College.
- Credentials Committee reported
 - o 164 Subordinate Delegates
 - o 50 Pomona Delegates
 - o 18 Juniors
 - o 22 Youth
 - o 137 Guest
 - o 385 Total attendance
- Sixth Degree conferred on 62 candidates
- Granger of the Year Fae Snyder, Valley Grange #1360, York County
- Proceeds of State Officers' basket auction \$2,221 plus donations of \$285 for a total of \$2,506 for the Grange Foundation
- \$320 collected for the Jonathan Sattazahn Memorial Fund
- Stacy Bruker, Public Relations/Membership Director resigned in April.
- Lizzie Bailey hired in May and resigned in September
- New Public Relations/Membership Director Bryan Marchefsky, Pottsville hired in October
- Membership Awards presented to Nancy Eck and Arthur Reed, Jr who obtained seven new members each
- Delegates passed an increase in registration fee to \$20.00 plus a \$10.00 late fee
- Reorganized Penn State Collegiate Grange #2105 and Green Grove Grange #1955, Lackawanna County
- Red Lion Grange #1781, York County purchased a building to convert into a new hall
- Membership 8,514 Subordinate members in 240 Granges which included 41 Associate members and 1,539 Lifetime members. There were 223 Junior members.
- Two Family Picnics held
 - o DeGrosso's, Blair County
 - o Knoebels Amusement Park, Northumberland County
- Service Corporation closed with the filing of tax forms and paperwork in 2013
- Two Grange Charters revoked for non-payment of dues
- Seven Granges closed Hope #574, Indiana County; Cross Creek Village #1751, Washington County; Turbot #249, Northumberland County; Weishample #31898, Schuylkill County; Mendon #855, Westmoreland County; Curfew #1052, Fayette County; Tamarack #1388, Clinton County
- Seven Grange properties sold
- Two Consolidations Battlefield #2063, Adams County with Washington #1949, York County; New Freedom #2108 with East Franklin #1709, Greene County
- McKean Pomona and Potter Pomona joined forces

• An additional 45 new quilt blocks were mounted on halls and community building bringing the total to 100

LEGISLATIVE

- Delegates asked that the Guest Worker VISA program be overhauled
- Asked that a redemption fee be placed on beverage bottles and cans.
- Requested revision of the Criminal code to make it a crime to photograph or video perceived animal or environmental abuse without the land owner's consent.
- Asked the Department of Agriculture to adopt a better weed control program on CRP and CREP lands.
- Delegates voted that steps be taken by administrators to install carbon monoxide detectors in all schools.
- Asked for revision of the Prevailing Wage Act as it relates to school construction costs

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- The Delegates voted to amend the State Grange By-Laws to set Associate Member dues at the same amount as regular members.
- Requested a committee be appointed to study the feasibility of establishing a museum and the funding thereof, at Eagle Grange #1 in Lycoming County.
- Dues were raised to \$11 per quarter per adult member.
- Set a registration fee of \$20 per person for the State Session, with a \$10 late fee.

LECTURERS

- Tenth Family Festival held at Centre County Grange Fairgrounds with 200 in attendance
- Community Night Reports
 - o Under 75 members Cheryl Miller, Union Grange #325, Centre County
 - o 76-149 members Nancy Sattazahn, Kutztown Grange #1836. Berks County
 - Over 150 members Madeline Seidel, Virginville #1832, Berks County
 - o Pomona Susan Tau, Crawford County #26

DEAF & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- \$1,548 donated to Alex's Lemonade stand started to fund cure for all childhood cancer
- Poster and essay contests discontinued due to decrease in participation
- \$1,000 donated to Dino's Operation Shoebox for shipping costs
- Collected hats, blankets, pillow cases, etc. and divided three ways Pittsburgh Children's Hospital, Hershey Medical Center and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Community Service Reports
 - o Subordinate Under 75 members
 - 1st Hayfield #800, Crawford County
 - 2nd Harveys-Aleppo #1444, Greene County
 - 3rd Schnecksville #1684, Lehigh County
 - 4th Wesley #1675, Venango County
 - o Subordinate Over 75 members
 - 1st Kutztown #1836, Berks County
 - 2nd Big Knob #2008, Beaver Count
 - 3rd Plumsteadville #1738, Bucks County
 - 4th Walker #786. Juniata County

- o Pomona
 - 1st Bucks #22
 - 2nd Montour-Northumberland-Union #31
 - 3rd Lehigh-Northampton #68

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- A quilt was donated to the March of Dimes
- Directors of the Year
 - o Pomona Betty Grove, Huntingdon County #6
 - o Subordinate Sandra Snyder, Sinking Valley Grange #484, Blair County

JUNIORS

- Time capsule packed at the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Grange in Butler County in 1988 opened during Junior Director Karen Mohn's report
- National Grange Super JG Awards presented at National Grange to 11 PA Juniors
- Junior Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills with 44 campers
- 2013-14 Junior Prince Ryan Berger and Princess Rebecca Blatt, Berks County

YOUTH-YOUNG ADULTS

- Friend of Youth Award Matt Espenshade, Elizabethtown Grange #2076, Lancaster County
- PA Youth and Juniors hosted Eastern Regional Youth Conference in Mechanicsburg with 17 PA Youth participating
- Thirteen PA Youth participated in the 1873 Exemplification of the Third Degree at the O. H. Kelley Farm, Elk River, MN
- Jennifer Nauss, Valley Grange #1360, York County, in the top three in the Easter Regional Jeopardy Contest
- PA youth performed a drill for exhibition at the Eastern Regional Conference
- Youth Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills
- 2013-14 Ambassadors Cassidy Cheddar, Lancaster County and Derek Snyder, York County
- No 2013-14 Young Couple named
- 2012 National Grange 1st Runner-up Youth Ambassador Ashley Mohn, Berks County
- Jeopardy 1st place Jennifer Nauss, Valley Grange #1360, York County
- Cassidy Cheddar served as an intern with the Communications Department during the 2012 National Session

NATIONAL

- Russellville Grange named a Distinguished Grange for the third year in a row.
- Betsy Huber re-elected to National Executive Committee

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE ORDER

- The 142nd Annual Session was held in Reading (Wyomissing)
- The Credential Committee reported
 - o 145 Subordinate Delegates representing 82 Subordinate Granges
 - o 53 Pomona Delegates representing 28 Pomona Granges
 - o 40 Juniors
 - o 122 Guests
 - o 360 Total attendance
- Virginville Grange #1832, Berks County, largest Grange in the Nation
- The Sixth Degree was conferred on 26 candidates
- Granger of the Year Virginia Shields, Atlantic Grange #344, Crawford County
- Baskets donated by State Officers and auctioned raised \$1,558 plus \$351 in donations for at total of \$1,909.50 for the PA Grange Foundation
- State Master Meiss became ill and on March 3, 2014, Overseer Richard Mangel was named Interim
 Master. He served until May 30, 2014 when Master Meiss returned to the office and rescinded the
 interim appointment. The Executive Committee worked on guidelines for the continued operation of the
 State Grange due to the incapacitation of the State Master.
- Membership Awards
 - 1-20 members Spruce Hill #772, Juniata County 3 new members
 - 21-49 members Tioga #1223, Tioga County 9 new members
 - 50+ members Big Knob #2008, Beaver County 9 new members
 - o Individual Lurae Benzio, Hookstown #1980, Beaver County 7 new members
- Closed ten Granges, six Charters surrendered and five Charters suspended for non-payment of dues.
 One Grange reinstated by paying back dues.
- Two Granges in the process of reorganizing
- Membership indicated 8,050 members in 236 Granges including 44 Associate members and 1,552 Lifetime members. There were 205 Junior members.
- Two Family Picnics held
 - o DelGrosso's Amusement Park
 - Knoebel's Amusement Park
- Held Grange Outreach for Active Leadership (GOAL) meetings conducted by Michael Martin, National Leadership/Membership Director at Elizabethtown Grange, Lancaster County
- Elizabeth Downey, Lycoming County, was elected State Master.

LEGISLATIVE

- The Grange believes that there is no reason for mandatory labeling of any food containing a GMO.
- The Grange does not favor the efforts of the EPA, through rule making powers, to redefine and/or expand the waters under its jurisdiction.
- The Grange seeks uniform rules for taxation of high tunnel greenhouses.
- The Grange asked the Food and Drug Administration to reserve the term "milk" solely for milk and milk products derived from mammals.
- The Delegates voted to support legislation to hold gas companies responsible for payment of the agreed upon royalties under their contracts.
- The Delegates requested a study of the process used to elect Ag Trustees at PSU.

- Delegates supported rules implementing the instruction of cursive handwriting as a requirement in educational standards.
- The Delegates rejected a resolution that would have set regulations preventing smoking in a vehicle where a child was a passenger.
- The Delegates supported a resolution to encourage the General Assembly to enact legislation to enable electronic publication of legal notices to save local municipal advertising costs.
- The Delegates supported an electoral system by which the gubernatorial nominees select their own running mate for Lieutenant Governor.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A resolution was passed asking the National Grange to update the language in the Declaration of Purposes to reflect modern communication technology.
- The Delegates approved a resolution asking the National Grange to state clearly the rights of a Master in committee meetings, since the Master is a member of all committees.
- Delegates approved a resolution asking National Grange to digitally record music for the first six degrees and to record/video a full and complete set of Degrees thru the Sixth for conferring and/or educational purposes.
- Approved a request that a "Host Committee" report be added to the Journal of Proceedings and contain statistics regarding attendance at events.
- Asked for a committee to be appointed to study changing from a full-time to a part-time State Master.

LECTURERS

- 11th Family Festival held at Centre County Grange Campgrounds with 200 in attendance
- Talent Best of Show Miller Brothers, Berks County
- Community Night Reports
 - o Under 75 members Mary Jane Kent, Harveys-Aleppo #1444, Greene County
 - o 76-149 members Nancy Sattazahn, Kutztown #1836, Berks County
 - o 150+ members Lorrie Wisner, Ontelaunee #1617, Berks
 - o Pomona Susan Tau, Crawford #26

DEAF & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Project for Homeless Vets
- A check for \$1,511 for Dino's Operation Shoebox and a total of 1,403 items collected at Family Festival
- Community Service Reports
 - o Subordinate Under 75 members
 - 1st Vernon #936, Crawford
 - 2nd London Grove #63, Chester
 - 3rd Schnecksville #1684, Lehigh County
 - 4th Hayfield #800, Crawford
 - O Subordinate 75+ members
 - 1st Big Knob #2008, Beaver sent to National Grange
 - 2nd Kutztown #1836, Berks
 - 3rd Ontelaunee #1617, Berks
 - 4th Plumsteadville #1738. Bucks

- o Pomona
 - 1^{st} Bucks #22
 - 2nd Lehigh-Northampton #68
 - 3rd Montour-Northumberland-Union #31
 - 4th Centre #13

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Director of Year
 - o Pomona Rebecca Michalka, Washington #16
 - o Subordinate Marie Schaeffer, Virginville #1832, Berks

JUNIORS

- 125th Anniversary of the Junior Grange celebration held with Jeff Wetzel, Past Junior Director and National Grange Director of Year as the speaker
- The longest consecutive Junior Grange member Laura McCardle, Chester County, was recognized having joined the Juvenile Grange in 1943.
- National Super JG Awards presented to 11 PA Juniors Erica Berger, Ryan Berger, Isaiah Blatt, Rebecca Blatt, Samantha Haag, Hannah Leibensperger, Isaac Mengel, Tylor Phillips, Isaac Rohrbach, Peter Rohrbach, Berks County and Grace Wadsworth, Chester County
- Junior Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills with 45 campers
- Mary Haag, Berks County PA State Junior Grange Supporter of the Year
- 2014-15 Junior Prince Isaac Mengel, Berks County and Anna Benzio, Beaver County

YOUTH-YOUNG ADULTS

- Friend of Grange Youth Award Matt and Miranda Irons, Warren County
- Eastern Youth Regional Best of Show Prepared Speech 1st Ashley Mohn, Berks County
- Youth Camp held at Camp Sylvan Hills with 22 campers and total of 35 for the weekend
- 2014-15 Ambassadors Noah Gesford and Lindsay Schroeder, both of Berks County

NATIONAL GRANGE

• The following completed the requirements and were named Distinguished Granges: Elizabethtown Area #2076, Lancaster County; Goshen #121, Chester County; Hamburg #2103, Berks County; Harveys-Aleppo #1444, Greene County; Russellville #91, Chester County; Stoney Point #1694, Mercer County; and Valley #1360, York County..