Plumsteadville Grange #1738

AMERICAN VALUES – HOMETOWN ROOTS

5901 Easton Road, Plumsteadville

Mailing Address: Box 335, Plumsteadville PA 18949

GRANGE MEETINGS

July 8, 2015 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Grange Hall
- Program: Mary Ellen Noonan of Bucks County Conservation District – soil-related topic

No meeting in August – We will be operating the snack bar at the Middletown Grange Fair – Please volunteer.

Future Meetings – We have a great lineup of speakers for the remainder of the year. Remember that you need not be a member to attend our meetings – visitors are ALWAYS welcome. If a topic interests you, please join us.

September 9 – Marguerite Vasconcellos of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit will give us an update on the programs for the deaf which we help support

October 14 – Hendrika Paci of Callowhill Alpacas

November 11 – Veterans Day program featuring State Representative Marguerite Quinn as our speaker.

December ?? – Annual Christmas party – date to be determined (no December meeting)

FARM MARKET – JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

July 4 – MARKET CLOSED – Enjoy the 4th!

July 11 – Carol Strachaan, Singer/Guitarist plus Anuli the Articulated Giraffe

July 18 – Glass-work demo by Jeni Mogg plus entertainment by the Back Porch Jug Band

July 25 – George Thompson – singer/guitarist playing folk, jazz and old tyme music – always a market favorite and sometimes he also brings friends.

Aug 1 – Madison Charnigo – Singer/Guitarist and song-writer – only in her teens, she is a real talent

Aug 8 – Sewing workshop with Mrs. Wiltshire

Aug 15 – It's all about the bees – demo by the Bucks County Beekeepers Association in celebration of National Beekeeping Day.

More to come –The market continues thru October

The farm market will continue through October with demos, music and special events to be announced. **Follow us on Facebook** and visit our website frequently for the latest additions to the market. **New vendors are still welcome** – contact Meg Lomax at 215-766-9801 or meglomax@verizon.net Also contact Meg if you have an idea for a demo, special event or know of local musicians who would like to perform.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 GRANGE SCHOLARS

Ellen Elaine Crooke scholarships were awarded to four Bucks County 4-H members based on their stellar applications and were recognized at our June meeting.

Pictured left to right: Meg Lomax, scholarship committee chair, Bryce Webber, Elizabeth Wiltshire, Daniel & Annette Crooke (parents of Ellen Elaine Crooke) and Heather Oltjen Bruns. Sandra Krone was unable to attend as she was graduating that evening.

Scholarships were awarded to:

Sandra Krone to study Dairy Science at Virginia Tech

Heather Oltjen Bruns to study Animal Science at Del Val University

Bryce Webber to study Wildlife conservation and Criminal Justice at Del Val University

Elizabeth Wiltshire to study Extension education at Del Val University

We wish all four success in their studies and ask them to keep us updated as to their progress.

Celebrate our nation's freedom responsibly and
See you at the Grange!

Middletown Grange Fair Snack Bar – Help Wanted

This year's Fair is August 12 – 16 and we will again be operating the snack bar. Volunteers of all ages are welcome – Grangers, 4-H members, parents & friends of the Grange.

Volunteers are needed for all shifts – we operate from open to close each day of the fair-that's from 10 am till 10 or 11 at night – plus pre-open prep and clean up at the end of the night – any time you can help is appreciated.

Contact Steve Byrne at 267-408-0367 (call or text) or send email to steven.byrne@navy.mil. A sign up form will also be posted on the Plumsteadville Grange website.

We are also in need of an additional refrigerator – if you know of a source for a cheap/free used fridge please contact Steve.

Our Programs may Inspire You Too !

From Amy Kowal, Farm Market Vendor

After the presentation on **Castle Valley Mill** at the last meeting, I started carrying their flours as well as making crackers and other baked goods from their flours. The flavor and nutrition are so superior!! If anyone would like to purchase flour from me, I will have 2, 4, and 10 pound bags for sale, call or email me for more info or to place an order 215-534-0244 or amykowal@live.com.

Message from Marguerite Quinn

State Representative, 143rd Legislative District

Farmers Market Program Encourages Healthy Eating

The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, is offering the Farmers Market Nutrition Program to older adults in Bucks County.

The program provides $20 in FREE vouchers to eligible individuals and $40 for eligible couples for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets. To qualify, a person must reside in Bucks County, be at least 60 years of age, and meet income guidelines (for example, a single person may earn up to $21,775; a two-person household may earn up to $29,471). The program is not available to senior citizens who are living in nursing home facilities and residential facilities where meals are provided.

Vouchers will ONLY be distributed at designated senior centers, including the following centers located in the 143rd Legislative District:

Central Bucks Senior Center, 700 Shady Retreat Road, Doylestown, telephone 215-348-0565 – Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. while supplies last.

Eastern Upper Bucks Seniors Center, 8040 Route 611, telephone 610-847-8178 – Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. while supplies last.

For additional information, call the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging at 267-880-5700 or visit http://www.buckscounty.org/government/HumanServices/AAA?utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=http%3a%2f%2fwww.buckscounty.org%2fgovernment%2fHumanServices%2fAAA&utm_campaign=News+You+Can+Use . For a comprehensive list of Farmer's Markets across the Commonwealth, visit http://www.farmersmarketonline.com/fm/Pennsylvania.htm?utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=http%3a%2f%2fwww.farmersmarketonline.com%2ffm%2fPennsylvania.htm&utm_campaign=News+You+Can+Use .

For more information on the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, or any state-related topic, please contact my district office in Doylestown at 215-489-2126. I also encourage you to visit www.RepQuinn.net or Facebook.com/RepQuinn.

Information Regarding Avian Influenza

Following info is an excerpt from a statement by PA State Grange

There has been a lot of news coverage on this topic recently. Some true, some false. We want our members to be informed on this subject without undue panic. We recommend that you go to the PA Department of Agriculture's website for information regarding Avian Flu and the steps the PDA is taking to keep it from affecting PA poultry farms.

A press release received from the PDA stated in part:

"State Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding today stressed to members of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee that Pennsylvania is on high alert against highly pathogenic avian influenza – an economically devastating disease that is making its way eastward across the United States and that threatens the state's $1.2 billion poultry industry, as well as the 53,000-plus jobs that depend on it.

The disease, which has no known impact to human health, has been found in 20 other states, including the most recent

confirmation in Macomb County, Mich., which is only 150 miles across Lake Erie from Pennsylvania. More than 47 million birds have been killed by the virus to date"

Among the measures PDA has taken to prevent the spread of this disease are:

- Suspended all avian shows at county fairs in 2015 and at the 2016 Pennsylvania Farm Show.
- Issued an interstate quarantine order requiring all poultry moving to live bird markets and flocks producing eggs destined for commercial breaking operations in Pennsylvania to meet a 72-hour testing requirement.

For more information about avian influenza, visit www.agriculture.state.pa.us or http://1.usa.gov/18t1E5p.

Plumsteadville Grange Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the June 2015 meeting as recorded by Meg Lomax, acting secretary, are included in their entirety. Plumsteadville Grange #1738 met Wednesday June 9th at 7:30 p.m. Present: Men 13, Women21Total 34.

OPENING: The Grange opening ceremony was led by President Jane Birk, followed by the roll call of officers and committee members. Minutes of the previous meeting of May 2015 were mailed with the monthly newsletter. A motion was approved to accept them (as written).

Roll Call Of Officers: Present President Jane Birk, Overseer Don Steeley, Lecturer Katie Graham , Assistant Steward Don Moss, Acting Secretary Meg Lomax, Treasurer Jim Lomax, Flora Lynda Kling

Program.
Mark Fischer of Castle Valley Mills, Lower State Road Doylestown gave an informative and interesting presentation on his milling business at Castle Valley Mills producing stone ground flour using grain from local farmers. He encouraged members to go and visit.

Ellen Elaine Crooke Scholarship
Four students received $500 each from Plumsteadville Grange, presented by Dan and Annette Crooke:

- Sandra Krone to study Dairy Science at Virginia Tech
- Heather Oltjen Bruns to study Animal Science at Del Val University
- Bryce Webber to study Wildlife conservation and Criminal Justice at Del Val University
- Elizabeth Wiltshire to continue studying at Bucks County Technical College

GUESTS: Parents and family of the girls who were presented with scholarships and friends of Mark Fischer

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Legislative Committee
Don Steeley reported that he and Jane, the president, attended State Grange Day at the Farm Show complex in Harrisburg. They had a tour of the Capitol and the Senate gallery, met State legislators Marguerite Quinn and Chuck Mcllhinney as well as members of Junior Grange.

Jeni Mogg asked if they had discussed the proposal of reducing the size of the House representatives from 50 to 37 which would mean that rural areas would lose representation. This had not been discussed, but Jane Birk suggested that Jeni put forward a resolution expressing our concern and send it to State Grange

Agriculture committee
The rain came last week after a month of very little rain so the corn is now growing

Farm Market
Meg Lomax reported that the Market opened with a flourish with lots of customers and 5 new vendors.

Barn restoration.
The new Barn floor was much admired.

Treasury Report: Income: $3,520.63 Expenditure: $7,123.26

OLD BUSINESS:
Katie Graham is looking into how the Grange can partner with local elementary schools.

NEW BUSINESS
Pomona Grange. There will be a Pomona meeting on Saturday June 13th when proceeds (approx. $2900) from the 2014 pizza sales will be distributed to local charities.

It was agreed to put a full page advert for Plumsteadville Grange and the Farm Market in the Middletown Grange Fair catalog at the cost of $145.

Regulations have changed for entering products or crafts into the fair's competitions. They must now be entered digitally.

Members' Welfare
Lillian Shull is progressing after having a heart pace maker operation.

Respectfully submitted, Meg Lomax, Acting Secretary

PA State Grange Legislative Issues

Subscribe to Betsy Huber's newsletter to keep informed of the latest actions in Harrisburg – the Grange's activism in State legislative matters are a benefit of membership – Keep informed of our actions in Harrisburg, and don't hesitate to contact Betsy with your concerns.

DOES ANYONE WANT TO GO FISHING?

A sea fishing charter has been proposed as a fun activity – date, place and cost to be determined. Please contact Jeni Mogg if you are interested at 215-297—9448 or jeniminguez@hotmail.com (note incorrect phone number was published in last month's newsletter).

2015 QUILT RAFFLE

The Grange quilters latest work of textile art is now ready to raffle. The quilt is on display at the Grange hall and at the farm market. Raffle tickets are now on sale at all Grange functions – $2.00 per ticket, or 3 for $5.00, or contact any Grange member. Proceeds are used to fund Grange Farm Market improvements. Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the summer and the quilt will be raffled off at the close of the market season, the last Saturday in October.

4-H TEEN COUNCIL SHOE COLLECTION

Bucks County 4-H Teen Council has been collecting new/used shoes for two years. The shoes are sent around the world to those in need, Teen Council receives $.50 a pound for the shoes they collect (funds are used for leadership opportunities and community service in Bucks County) and Teen Council has saved the Bucks County landfills from being filled with over 2,000 pounds of shoes that would take hundreds of years to break down.

A collection box has been placed in the Grange Hall. The shoes must be wearable or still have wear value, no holes, rips or tears. Both shoes must be present and NO slippers, NO flip flops and NO heavy work boots. The shoes are shipped around the world to those in need.

NEWSLETTER

As always, if you have something to share or want to get the newsletter via email contact Jane Birk at 610-657-7668 or jdbirk_2000@yahoo.com.

Our Members are Really in Action!

Jim Lomax recently participated in the Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race held June 14th His team's entry was **Anuli the Articulated Giraffe**, named after one of the two giraffes born at the Baltimore zoo a year or two ago.

The team was very pleased to win one of the three top prizes, that for best engineering.

Anuli plans to make a special appearance at the Plumsteadville Grange Farm Market on Saturday, July 11. Be sure to come out to meet Anuli & take a photo

Got Photos ?? Please Share!

If you have photos taken at the Farm Market, Community Day, Christmas party or any Grange related event, please send copies to Jane Birk at jdbirk_2000@yahoo.com for inclusion in our community service book to be submitted to State Grange.

USE OF THE GRANGE HALL:

If you know of a group ~~needing a meeting place~~, or to inquire about hall rental for an event, contact Meg Lomax at 215-766-9801 or meglomax@verizon.net

GRANGE REFRESHMENTS

A Grange meeting without refreshments is just a meeting- the informal time after a meeting is often the most fertile ground for discussion of ideas and forging new friendships. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Grange Hall – please indicate which month you would like to provide refreshments.

Plumsteadville Grange Farm Market

Now Open for the Season

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

through October

Free Coffee – Tea Room

Entertainment & Demos

Follow us on Face Book for the latest updates and news from our vendors

Everything Locally Sourced, Grown or Produced

Fruits & Vegetables in Season
Baked goods of all kinds
Including gluten free / organics
Artisan Cheese from Ely Farms
Real Local Honey
Pottery & Quilting
Woodworking & other Artisans

For info on becoming a vendor or entertainer, or if you have an idea for a great demo, , contact Meg Lomax at meglomax@verizon.net

Plumsteadville Grange #1738
Box 335
Plumsteadville, PA 18949