



Plumsteadville Grange #1738

A good patron places FAITH in God, nurtures HOPE,
dispenses CHARITY, and is noted for FIDELITY



Box 335, 5901 Easton Road (Rte 611), Plumsteadville, PA 18949 – www.plumsteadvillegrange.org

GRANGE MEETINGS

FRIDAY December 6, 2013 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Annual Christmas Celebration
- Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm & Entertainment
- No Monthly Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday

The Grange will supply ham and tableware. Please bring a pot-luck dish to share – If your last name begins with A-L, bring a side dish, and M-Z bring dessert.

January 8, 2014 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall
- Program** – to be announced

LORD'S PANTRY

In this season of plenty, we need to be mindful of those less fortunate. **We ask each attendee at the Christmas party to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Lord's Pantry.** Donations can also be dropped off at the Grange hall.

PLUMSTEAD COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Monday Dec. 16th --2pm to 7pm
Held at Plumsteadville Grange

To sign up go to www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code Plumstead or contact nancy.taylor@redcross.org 215- 348 -9271

You are eligible if your last donation was on or before Oct 21 – Eligibility questions call 1-866-236-3276

GAME CODE LANDOWNER LIABILITY PROTECTION BILL APPROVED BY GOVERNOR

Gov. Tom Corbett has approved a bill that will protect landowners from responsibility when hunters commit Game Code violations on their land. The bill protects landowners from responsibility for Game Code violations committed by hunters while hunting on the landowner's property. "Farmers can now be assured that they will not be held responsible for the illegal actions of others who hunt on their land." "The new law could also benefit hunters, as some

landowners may be more willing to allow the recreational activity on their property, knowing they will not be prosecuted if a hunter commits a Game Code violation." SB 648, sponsored by Sen. Richard Alloway, removes the liability regardless of whether a landowner allows hunters to access their property for free, or charges a fee.

PA HUNTERS REMINDED TO SHARE THEIR HARVEST

GEORGE GREIG, PA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

George Greig, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture reminds PA hunters they can share extra venison with Pennsylvanians in need through Hunters Sharing the Harvest. Secretary Greig will join representatives of the venison donation organization in Cumberland Co. next week to raise awareness about donation opportunities at participating deer processors and food banks across the state. Last year hunters donated enough meat for 200,000 meals

PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE BROCHURE

Copies of our Grange brochure are available at the Grange hall, or contact Jane Birk at 610-657-7668 or jd_birk_2000@yahoo.com – Invite your friends and neighbors to join us at a meeting or event.

DID YOU KNOW?

William Saunders, the USDA's first botanist and a founder of the National Grange, designed the Gettysburg National Cemetery, where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863. Gov. Corbett and the First Lady helped commemorate the 150th anniversary of the address on Tuesday, November 19, 2013.

As the national leader in hardwood lumber production, Pennsylvania produces an estimated 800 million board-feet of lumber generating more than \$11 billion each year from Pennsylvania's 17 million acres of productive forestland.



PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the November 2013 meeting of the Plumsteadville Grange as recorded by Karen Moss, secretary, are included in their entirety.

Plumsteadville Grange #1738 met Wednesday, November 13th at 7:30 pm. Present Men -6 Women -9 Total - 15

OPENING: The Grange opening ceremony was led by Master Jim Diamond, followed by the roll call of officers and committee members. Minutes of the previous meeting of October 2013 were mailed/emailed with the monthly newsletter.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Present, Master Jim Diamond, Overseer Donald Steeley, Lecturer Darlene Quiring, Treasurer Jim Lomax, Secretary Karen Moss, Greeter Katie Graham, Pomona Toni Kellers, Flora Jane Birk, Musician Betty Diamond.

PROGRAM: The program was given by new member Shawn Semperi. Shawn and his sons, Joe and Nick, has been vendors at our farm market this season, selling fruits, nuts and eggs from their farm. Shawn spoke about his move from New Jersey and his plans for the farm property on Durham Road. They are planning a sustainable grass based meat operation in addition to the pecans, chickens and berries now on the farm. Joe and Nick are 4H members in the sheep, beef, goat and poultry projects.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Deaf Activities: Jim Lomax reported that the Fish Dinners are over for 2013 with plans being made for 2014 dinners starting in Lent.

Farm Market: Meg Lomax gave a final report on the 2013 Farm Market season. Total income was \$1039 from vendor's fees and donations. Expenses were \$1116, including \$461 for advertising, \$295 for entertainment, and \$360 to our young helpers. Loss for the season was \$77 and as before the Grange will cover that loss.

Building and Maintenance & Grounds: With the retirement of Don Moss from handling the Grange maintenance and grounds and the managing of the apartments, Jen Bishop Hurley has been hired as manager for the apartments.

We still have some Grange building maintenance and fire inspections to be completed:

- replace outside lights
- replace flag
- reorganization of the office/file room
- clean out of the furnace room
- installation of smoke detectors

Pomona, National and State Reports: Jane Birk gave an extensive written report on the 2013 State Grange meeting. Plumsteadville Grange won 3rd place for community service and our Pomona Grange won received first place. Thank you, Jane, for organizing the notebooks which were submitted in this competition. It was also reported that we can expect state dues to be increased to \$44 per individual member in 2014.

Legislative Report: Jim Diamond reported that the National Farm Bill is still not passed and at this time seems to not be a priority in Washington at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Lomax reported that we had income of \$3269 and expenses of \$3909 for October 2013.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made, seconded and passed to make a \$100 donation to the Plumsteadville Fire Department.

Our Christmas Party is being held on Friday, December 6th at 6:30, including a pot luck dinner, visit from Santa, and play directed by Meg Lomax, performed by members and the Danboro 4H. If your last name begins with A-L you should bring a side dish, with M-Z a dessert. Contact Meg Lomax, 215-766-9801, with names and ages of all children attending.

Jim Diamond and Don Steeley will be visiting the Richland Historical Society to look at the Richland Grange Records stored there and determine if any of those should be kept at our Grange.

Meg Lomax has found a piano planner to relieve Betty Diamond in the spring. If there is any other person out there who is willing to play for us at meetings, call Meg or Jim Diamond.

Anne Reilly and Meg Lomax will be making and distributing cookie and fruit baskets to our shut-ins.

UPDATES ON MEMBERS SICK OR IN DISTRESS:

Betty Diamond has recovered from a blood clot in her leg. Anna Mary Keeler is back home at Independence Court. Doris Hellerick has moved to the Lutheran Home at Telford.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Moss, Secretary.

WARNING TO ALL GRANGE MEMBERS

State AG's office warns elderly about scams:

Plumsteadville Grange members and friends need to know that the state Attorney General's Office is warning senior citizens that scammers have them in their sights. According to Joe Peters, communications director for Attorney General Kathleen Kane, scammers target the uninformed, who oftentimes are elderly. Charlotte Raup, president of the Wilkes-Barre Crime Watch Coalition, said she's "heartbroken" when hearing of people dealing with scams. Raup, who has received several perceived scam letters herself, said two local seniors living in a high-rise were recently targeted. One of them, Raup said, received a letter from an alleged sheriff's department, telling her she would be arrested if she did not pay a bill. The simplest advice Raup could give people regarding scams: Don't fall for them. "We teach people all the time to be careful, but some of these scams are so real that people fall for them, especially the seniors," Raup said. "All they want is you to start sending them money." "Lottery scams also have been a consistent problem over the years."

FROM THE DESK OF MARGUERITE QUINN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 143RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Conservation Tax Credits Available to Farmers

Farming families make major decisions by thinking of the long-term picture. The right move today can mean a bigger payoff tomorrow and even further down the road. Pennsylvania rewards farmers who abide by these principles by granting tax credits to farmers who use the best management practices or need to purchase on-farm conservation equipment.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program provides millions of dollars in tax credits for best management practices and to buy

equipment that will reduce erosion and sedimentation that could impact Pennsylvania streams and watersheds.

"The state's investment of \$49.5 million over the past six years has provided our farmers an additional boost to their efforts to protect the environment," said Agriculture Secretary George Greig. "REAP continues to support Pennsylvania's mission of improving water quality while helping our farms remain viable and productive."

There is still \$3.5 million in tax credits available this year and the Department of Agriculture is encouraging all eligible parties to apply. Farmers can receive credits up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation for 50 to 75 percent of the total project cost. The most common projects approved are for no-till planting equipment, construction of waste storage facilities, manure management plans and protecting heavy animal use areas such as barnyards.

Since 2007, REAP has awarded tax credits to more than 2,700 projects totaling \$34 million. Public and private enterprises have invested \$82.4 million in these projects. The benefits to Pennsylvania's environment are staggering. REAP has helped reduce an estimated runoff of nearly 12 million pounds of nitrogen, more than 878,000 pounds of phosphorus, and nearly 882,000 tons of sediment through 2011.

To apply for the 2013-14 REAP tax credits visit www.pda.state.pa.us/REAP, and look under "Forms", or contact Joel Semke at jsemke@pa.gov or call 717-787-8821.

For more information on this, or any other state-related topic, please contact my district office in Doylestown at 215-489-2126. I also encourage you to visit RepQuinn.net or [Facebook.com/RepQuinn](https://www.facebook.com/RepQuinn).

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

JAMES E. DIAMOND, MASTER, PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE # 1738

Bob Hope once said, "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" Bob Hope has a wonderful point and I share his thoughts. Loving others is the doorway to making new friends. The

miracle of making a friend is a glorious feeling of fulfillment, an inner feeling that no other quest can suffice. Members of Plumsteadville Grange do a **great job** at loving others throughout the whole year and that's the **greatest gift** one can give. Betty and I wish all Plumsteadville Grange members and Grange friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE ENFORCING LAW, PROTECTING MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Grange members who own dog(s) please be aware!

George Grieg, PA Secretary of Agriculture has reported that PDA's Dog Law Enforcement Office is aggressively enforcing PA's dog laws and protecting the well-being of dogs and puppies across the state. Kennel inspections, sales of licenses and issuance of citations and misdemeanors have increased over 2012 figures.

PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE MEETING MINUTES

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK – We welcome members, friends and market vendors to post your comments.



Search for "Plumsteadville Grange" or "Plumsteadville Grange Farm Market"

MUSICIAN WANTED

If any member is able to play the piano (or another suitable instrument) for our meetings, please let us know.



MEET KATIE GRAHAM

Katie is a new member of Plumsteadville Grange and was recently elected Vice President of Bucks County Beekeepers Association. She lives near Pipersville and is currently a Retirement Plan Consultant for the Paragon Alliance Group. Katie received her Bachelor of Science Degree at West Chester University where she majored in Business Management. Katie raises honeybees and she is quite proud of her apiary. In addition she is an avid gardener and likes to travel. Katie is noted in the Bucks County Beekeepers Association for her unique ability to plan and implement programs. In addition she has exhibited much dedication to volunteering her spare time to

offer assistance to Plumsteadville Grange activities. WE SINCERELY WELCOME KATIE GRAHAM to the Plumsteadville Grange and we look forward to working with her in the forthcoming years.

MEET MATHEW L. BOBIAK, PH.D.

Mathew L. Bobiak is a new member of Plumsteadville Grange and was recently elected President of Bucks County Beekeepers Association. Matt (as he prefers to be called) hails from Quakertown and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown. Matt received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at Stony Brook University in August 2009. Matt received his B.S Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Penn State University. He has published authored and co-authored refereed research papers in professional journals and has given several research presentations at professional meetings.

Matt is a member of outreach organizations such as Bucks County Beekeepers Association, Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, NIH Mitochondrial Interest Group and NIH DNA Repair Interest Group. In 1984 Matt was an Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America.

WE WARMLY WELCOME MATTHEW L. BOBIAK to the Plumsteadville Grange and we look forward to working with him in the forthcoming years.

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, D-13, Jenkintown, has introduced legislation designed to help middle-income families pay the costs of increasingly expensive higher education. According to a news release, Schwartz's College Affordability Act would "ensure that middle-class and working families maximize their savings.

FROM GEORGE GREIG, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

PA remains a forestry capital today, just as it was when William Penn was granted "Penn's Woods" in 1681, with our woods providing clean air and water, food, fuel and shelter. The [PA Hardwoods Development Council](#) promotes and protects the state's hardwood timber industry. The council has traveled on missions to countries across the globe,

all to create new, growing markets for PA's products. PA's forest products industry is committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, and I'm proud of the council's 25 years of work to promote the industry's successes.

DISCOVERY SERVICE PROJECTS

Domestic Project 2014 ~ Crisfield, Maryland

Repairing/rebuilding homes and buildings damaged by Hurricane Sandy

- Week 1 June 15th – June 21st
- Week 2 June 22nd – June 28th

We invite you to participate in this mission opportunity by

- praying for the project's success
- contributing to the cost of materials
- go as a volunteer.

Cost of \$150 per week includes: lodging at Asbury U.M. Church, insurance, t-shirt, breakfast and lunch, and some evening meals. Questions: contact Erling Salvesen, 215-669-0225 mtntopwest@hotmail.com

WHAT'S NEW AT THE 98TH PA FARM SHOW?

The 2014 [PA Farm Show's](#) famous PA Preferred™ [Food Court](#) will offer a taste of PA with new items. Sample maple products from the PA Maple Assoc., including mustard, lemonade, salad dressing, barbecue sauce and hard candy. Enjoy berry funnel cake from the PA Vegetable Growers Assoc. or hot beef sausage from the PA Livestock Assoc. The PA Cattlemen's Assoc. will offer a beef and cheddar sandwich and steak and egg breakfast burrito.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE MEMBERS WHO HAVE A BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER

It doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing, what matters is who you are. Members of Plumsteadville Grange very much like who you are and we wish you a very Happy Birthday. May you have many more.



MUFFIN MANIA COMES TO THE PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE!

SYDNEY OCHOCO, DANBORO 4-H NEWS REPORTER

Using the [Let's Make Quick Breads](#) project book, Danboro 4-Hers made 3 types of muffins: Chocolate chocolate chip, Molasses Spice and Blueberry Muffins. Thank you, Mrs. Annette Crooke, for helping us with the ovens. While the muffins were baking, the business meeting was held. A poster presentation on Baking Soda vs Baking Powder was given. Upcoming events were announced: Drama performance, Achievement Night and the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Christmas Carols for next month's meeting at Wesley Enhanced Living were sung. Finally our muffins were baked. Our muffins were judged on texture, moisture and taste. Chocolate chocolate chip muffins won for taste and presentation. Molasses spice muffins were a close second for presentation but won for smell. Blueberry muffins were a little flat, but these fruity muffins were the moistest! With many cooks in the kitchen, it truly was 4-H meeting of muffin mania.

USE OF THE GRANGE HALL:

Danboro 4-H is just one of the MANY groups that use our hall, making it truly a community center. If you know of a group needing a meeting place, or to inquire about hall rental for an event, contact Meg Lomax at Meg Lomax at 215-766-9801 or meglomax@verizon.net

MEMBERS SICK OR IN DISTRESS

Anna Mary Keeler has completed rehab and has returned to join her husband Harold Keeler at Independence Court in Quakertown.

Doris Hellerick has moved to the Lutheran Home at Telford. Cards may be sent to: Doris Hellerick Rm. 205B, Lutheran Home at Telford, 12 Lutheran Drive, Telford, PA 18969.

NEWSLETTER

If you have something to share in the newsletter, or to get it via email, please contact Jane Birk at 610-657-7668 or jdbirk_2000@yahoo.com.



Plumsteadville Grange



Invites you to the

Annual Pot Luck Christmas Party

Friday December 6th at 6.30
pm



Pot Luck Dinner 6.30 pm

Visit from Santa Claus 7:30pm

Followed by entertainment with
Danboro 4H Drama club and Grange Members in

'To Drive Cold Winter Away'

RSVP Meg Lomax 215 766 9801 meglomax@verizon.net

with numbers and names and ages of children ASAP

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Living Nativity - Living Hope Community Church, Dublin, PA. For info, visit www.livinghopepa.org

December 19th - 6:15 & 7:30 pm

December 20th - 5, 6:15.7:30 & 8:45 pm

December 21st - 5, 6:15.7:30 & 8:45 pm

December 22nd - 5, 6:15.7:30 pm

Celtic Christmas Concert featuring Charlie Zahm - December 14, 2013, 7:00 pm - Solomon's UCC Church, Bedminster, PA -

For more info visit

<http://www.solomonsucc.org> or

<http://www.charliezahm.com/schedule.html>

2013-14 Dues are now payable

Letters have been sent out - Mail your dues (\$35 individual or \$70 Family) to the Grange, or bring with you to the Christmas party.



PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE # 1738

Box 335, 5901 EASTON RD.

PLUMSTEADVILLE, PA 18949

WWW.PLUMSTEADVILLEGRANGE.ORG