



Plumsteadville Grange #1738

American Values - Hometown Roots

Box 335, 5901 Easton Road, Plumsteadville, PA

GRANGE MEETINGS

March 11, 2015 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Grange Hall
- Program: Rick Dalton from PA State Parks Dept. speaking on the topic of canal related flood issues

April 8, 2015 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Grange Hall
- Program: Kathy Salisbury of PSU Extension speaking on Thousand Canker Disease

May 13, 2015 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Grange Hall
- Program: Barbara Hoenwarter of The Loom Room – hand weaving demonstration

June 10, 2015 – Plumsteadville Grange

- Monthly Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Grange Hall
- Program: Mark Fischer Castle Valley Mill – History of milling in Bucks County

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

FISH FRY DINNERS – FRIDAYS IN MARCH

- **March 13 & March 27**

Fish, Fries, Salad and Dessert – PLUS live entertainment. Serving 5 – 7 pm. Contact Jim Lomax at 215-766-9801 or jimlomax@verizon.net if you can help, can make a cake, or if you need a poster to help spread the word.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 from this project to benefit local deaf children and their families through the Bucks County Intermediate Unit.

GRANGE DINNERS

- **March 11 – Lamb / Wool Pool**
- **April 11 – Pineville Horse Company**

Help is needed for preparation, service and clean up. Contact Annette Crooke at 215-345-1276 if you can help or if you can provide a pie (or two).

Annette Crooke reports that the recent GrowMark dinner was a very great success – 87 meals were served with very positive feedback from the company and the

attendees. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all that helped prep, serve, clean up and provide pies/cakes.

These dinners help generate needed revenue to fund our community service projects – thank you to ALL our loyal volunteers.

PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE COMMUNITY DAY --

APRIL 11, 2013

Save the Date & plan to attend. Plans are underway to host an open house community day on Saturday, April 18th in celebration of April as Grange Month. We have reached out to a number of local community service organizations who have agreed to participate, and we encourage the groups who use our Grange hall to join us as well. If you know of a community service organization who may be interested, please contact Katie Graham at 215-932-9683 or katie@tpagroup.com

PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE / 4H SCHOLARSHIPS

Members are reminded that Plumsteadville Grange is providing two yearly scholarships, of \$500 (now named the Ellen Elaine Crooke Memorial Scholarship) for Bucks County 4H members and Plumsteadville Grange members' children, one for agriculture based studies, and one for any study of choice. Students can reapply for study year 2 if they have maintained a grade pt average of 2.5, but they will also compete with new students applying for year1.

Agriculture related students may apply in year 2 for a study of their choice. Students should apply to Plumsteadville Grange on a standard application form from the Extension Service . Application forms should be accompanied by a transcript of grades from school, an essay, and two letters of recommendation. Application forms are available at Bucks County Co – operative Extension office.

Address applications to: Plumsteadville Grange, Box 335, 5901 Easton Road, Plumsteadville, PA 18949. The deadlines for scholarship application entries is May 1st 2015. Contact Meg Lomax with queries on 215-766-9801 or meglomax@verizon.net

THANK YOU TO THE BUCKS CO. 4-H JUNIOR COUNCIL

Members of this newly-formed group provided a "valentines tea" for our February meeting, including heart-shaped goodies, a beautifully decorated table, and party favors of Miracle-Gro decorated with hearts. Thank you so much for a delightful surprise. We look forward to working with this group in the future.

PA STATE GRANGE EMAIL LIST

PA State Grange is developing an email list to inform members of happenings at the State level. They intend to send out more information in this manner, saving printing and postage costs. Please send an email to pasgrange@pagrange.org with "email list" in the subject line.

DISCOVERY PROJECTS – UPDATE

Founder Barbara Carlson tells us that on their recent 3-week trip to Costa Rica, approximately 800 "rice & beans" food bags were distributed – each with enough to feed a family of 5 for a week. She thanks the members of Plumsteadville Grange who were a part of this mission.

PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the February 2015 meeting of the Plumsteadville Grange as recorded by Karen Moss, secretary, are included in their entirety. Plumsteadville Grange #1738 met on February 11, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Present Men -7 Women -10, Youth- 0 Total-17

OPENING: The Grange opening ceremony was led by Jane Birk, President, followed by the roll call of officers and committee members. Minutes of the previous meeting of January 2015 were mailed/mailed with the monthly newsletter.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Present were President Jane Birk, Overseer Donald Steeley, Lecturer Katie Graham, Treasurer Jim Lomax, Secretary Karen Moss, Ceres Meg Lomax, Pomona Toni Kellers, Flora Lynda Kling, Musician Betty Diamond.

GUESTS: In addition to our speaker, new member, Helen Whitmore, attended her first meeting.

PROGRAM: The program was presented by Janet Brennan of Shamrock Reins, a therapeutic riding center recently established on Ervin Road in Pipersville to serve veterans, first responders, active duty members and their families, and families of the fallen. We viewed a slide show of the facility as she talked about their mission, organization

and need for this type of service in our area. See www.shamrockreins.org on the internet for complete details.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Deaf Activities/Fish Fry: Jim Lomax reported that the food is ordered for the first Fish Fry on Friday, February 27th. He needs volunteers starting at 3PM until clean-up is finished, about 8PM – and cakes baked and donated for dessert. Help with prep, serving or clean-up will be appreciated greatly. Meg is working on finding live music for all the Fish Fry dinners.

Farm Market: Meg Lomax reported that the quilters have enough money in their account to level the floor in the barn, making the farm market safer and accessible for the handicapped. This has been a dream since the inception of the market. Dan Crooke will give as a quote on pouring of the new floor. There will be work party for some touch up painting on the barn, date to be announced when the spring thaw comes. The big sign hanging over the barn door is rotting and in danger of falling. Don Moss will renovate it as soon as the weather permits. It has been suggested that vendors with tents be moved closer to the road to make the market more visible and this will be tried as the market opens. Scott Guiser and JeniMog will be working on publicity and event notices will be developed and handed out to all customers. The opening date of the 2015 season is May 29th.

Building and Maintenance & Grounds: Dan Crooke and his team cleaned out the basement back room as requested by the fire marshal. He uncovered a pipe that had been leaking for some time. Karen Moss reported that the pipe was repaired the next day by our new plumber.

Legislative Report: Jim Diamond reported that Russ Redding, former Dean at Del Valley University is now officially serving as our state's Secretary of Agriculture.

COMMUNICATIONS: We received a thank you letter from Kelly Quiring, former 4H member and daughter of member Darlene Quiring, who is now serving in Texas with the Air Force.

REPORTS TO POMONA AND STATE GRANGE: Karen Moss reported that the quarterly reports to the State Grange are ready to be mailed. Attached is the check for quarterly dues of \$712.75 which covers 120 members.

Plumsteadville Grange #1738 – Newsletter

There are approximately 20 members who have not paid 2015 dues. Reminder letters will be sent next week.

TREASURER REPORTS: Jim Lomax reported income of \$18,028 and expenses of \$3,375 for the period of January 1, 2015 through January 31, 2015. Z Income included the yearly rental from Lighthouse Baptist Church for Tyro Grange Hall.

OLD BUSINESS: Annette Crooke reported that 76 people were served at the roast beef dinner held on January 31st-- the financial records are not yet available. She expects 80 people at the coffee and luncheon meeting to be held tomorrow, February 12th. We need volunteers starting at 9am to serve coffee and breakfast foods, followed by a ham dinner at noon. Home baked pies have been donated by grange members for the dessert.

NEW BUSINESS: 5 to 7 pm, Thursday, February 26, 2015, Katie Graham will represent us at the Locavore Business Card Exchange at Superior Woodcraft, 160 North Hamilton Street in Doylestown. This is a free, very well attended event featuring food producers from Central Bucks.

Jim Diamond reported that Jane Birk and Katie Graham have received compliments from the State Grange Master on the newsletter and planning for programs for 2015.

Jeni Mogg is working on the design and purchase of new business cards for our Grange. She presented examples.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Jane Birk reported on the recent meeting of the Executive Committee and some of the new activities they have planned. On Saturday April 18th a community day is planned at the grange which will include local organizations. Jim Lomax is organizing a float with the theme of "Farmers Feeding the Military", to participate in the Doylestown Memorial Day parade pulled by old John Deere tractor and built around a corn picker.

MEMBERS SICK OR IN DISTRESS: Donald Steeley reported that Bill Gunser of the Middletown Grange has died. Don will attend the funeral.

The meeting was followed by a Valentine's tea set up for us by the new Junior County of the Bucks County 4H including Valentine cards and gifts for each of us!

Respectfully submitted, Karen Moss, Secretary.

2014 QUILT RAFFLE

The quilting group has been hard at work and the next work of textile art is now ready to raffle. The quilt is on display at the Grange hall. 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.

PHOTOS WANTED

If you have photos of the Christmas party or any other 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 megломax@verizon.net

NEWS FROM REP. MARGUERITE QUINN

Despite Frigid Temperatures, Stay Warm and Save Money

The temperatures have been well below average in the past month, which can affect your energy usage and your budget. However, there are simple things you can do to stay warm as well as save energy and money.

- Manage your thermostat. Keep thermostats set at a constant, comfortable level. Lower thermostats a few degrees when sleeping or when out for more than a few hours.
- Do not block air flow. Make sure your furniture and drapes are not blocking heating vents.
- Take advantage of sunlight. Open curtains and drapes during the day to let the sun warm your home and close them at night for insulation.
- Do not heat unused areas. Close vents in unused rooms and shut doors to unused rooms, closets and basements.
- Keep the heat in. Check for drafts around windows and doors, and seal any openings with weather stripping or even a rolled up blanket. A drafty house lets warm air escape and is much more costly to keep warm – especially on the coldest days of the season.
- Change your furnace filter regularly. A dirty filter forces the furnace to work harder. Have the furnace inspected by a licensed professional to ensure it is operating efficiently and to seal any leaks in furnace ducts.

Plumsteadville Grange #1738 – Newsletter

- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120o F and conserve hot water when you can.
- Don't forget to turn it off. Turn off any unnecessary lights and electronics.

2014 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Forms Available Now

The forms for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program are now available for eligible residents to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2014. A free download of the form and its instructions are available [here](#).

Eligible participants can receive a rebate of up to \$650 based on their rent or property taxes paid in 2014. The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 years or older, widows and widowers 50 years or older, and those 18 years or older with disabilities.

Eligibility income limits for homeowners are set at the following levels, excluding 50 percent of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits:

- \$0 to \$8,000, maximum \$650 rebate (Homeowners and renters).
- \$8,001 to \$15,000, maximum \$500 rebate (Homeowners and renters).
- \$15,001 to \$18,000, maximum \$300 rebate (Homeowners only).
- \$18,001 to \$35,000, maximum \$250 rebate (Homeowners only).

Filing a PA-1000 requires no fee or cost. In addition, no one should have to pay a private entity for assistance in filing the forms. Copies of the forms, as well as assistance with filing them, are available at my office at no cost. The deadline to apply is June 30. For additional information or assistance, visit [RepQuinn.net](#).
Free Tax Preparation Services

AARP Tax-Aide Program

The AARP Tax-Aide program will again provide free assistance to seniors in filing their federal, state and local tax returns. The program will be conducted at the Central Bucks Senior Center located at 700 North Shady Retreat Road in Doylestown.

For more than 20 years, the AARP Tax-Aide program has served low- to middle-income taxpayers with special attention to those age 60 and older. Computer-based

tax return preparation assistance and e-filing of returns will also be provided at no charge.

Residents need to schedule an appointment by calling my office in Doylestown at (215) 489-2126. Don't wait to schedule an appointment; this service is provided on a first come, first served basis.

Funded by an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) grant, this effort is part of the IRS-sponsored Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program. It is administered through the AARP Foundation under the title Tax-Aide. Locally, it is endorsed by the Area Agency on Aging.

REPORTING A POTHOLE

Representative Marguerite Quinn encourages you to report potholes to PennDOT by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD. Callers will be asked to be as specific as possible when giving pothole locations or other maintenance concerns. For state routes, callers must report the county, municipality, street name and route number, or the state route number that can be found on small black-and-white signs posted along state roadways. In addition, callers should also provide a description of any familiar landmarks to help PennDOT locate the problem area. The hotline can be used to report roadway washouts, missing highway signs, high shoulder drop-offs or deer removal. Once notified, PennDOT will do its best to work expeditiously to address pothole and roadway concerns when weather permits.

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.

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.

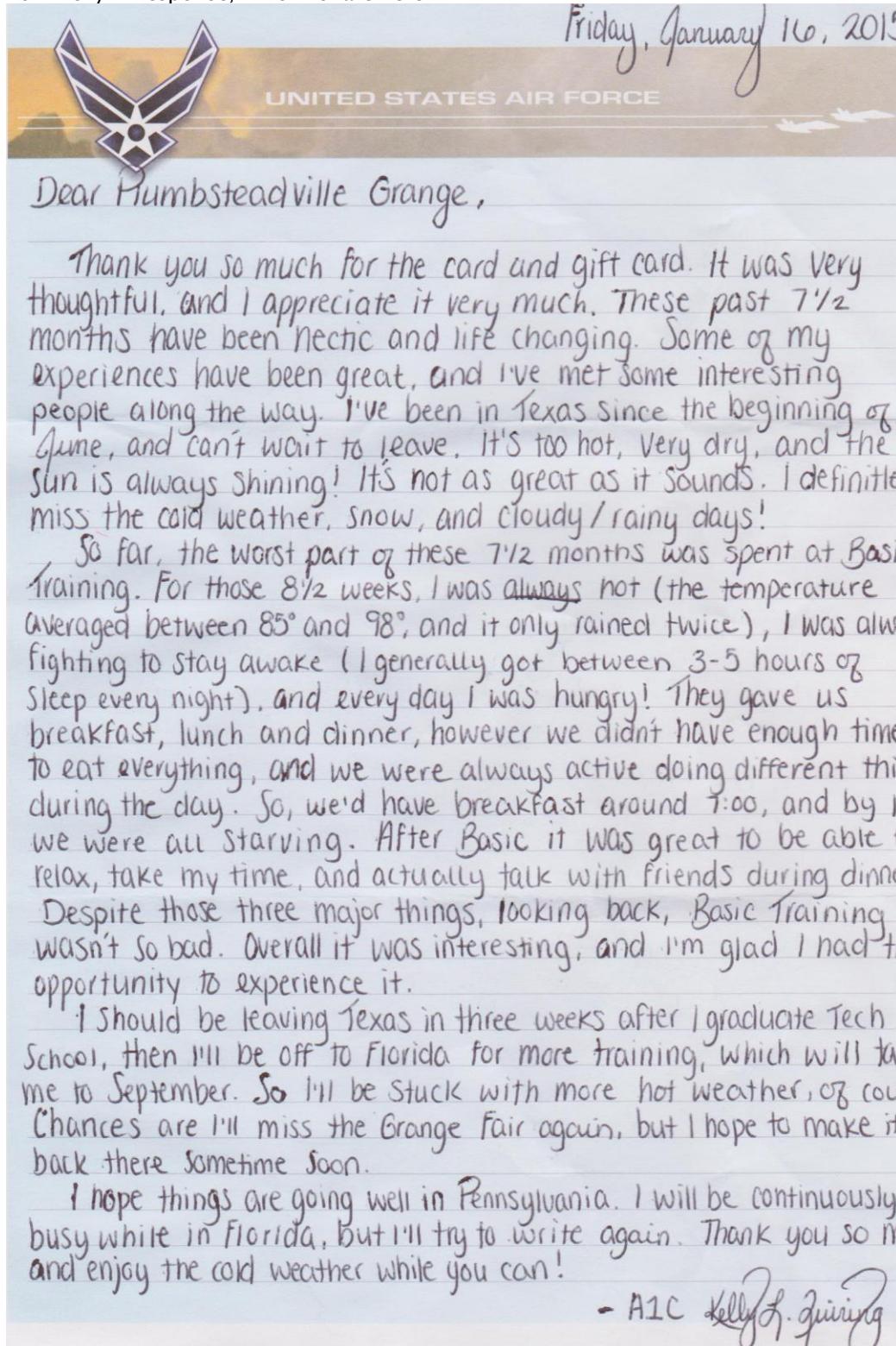
LIKE US ON FACE BOOK –

We welcome members, friends and market vendors to post your comments. Search for "Plumsteadville Grange" or "Plumsteadville Grange Farm Market" -- Feel free to SHARE or repost our events to help spread the word.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

JANE D. BIRK, PRESIDENT, PLUMSTEADVILLE GRANGE # 1738

On behalf of Plumsteadville Grange, we sent a Christmas card signed by attendees at the Christmas party along with a small gift card to Kelly Quiring who is currently serving our country in the US Air Force. We received the following letter from Kelly in response, which I share here.



Fish Fry Dinners – March 13 & 27

Serving 5 – 7 p.m.

Fish, Fries, Salad & Dessert PLUS live entertainment

\$8 adults / \$5 children under 12

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

Proceeds benefit local deaf
children & their families.



Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday, March 8

Set your clocks ahead on Saturday night, March 7th
(or you'll be late for church)

Farm Market Grand Opening for the Season **May 30, 2015**

Look for more details on our weekly events
New vendors welcome



March 20, 2015

Plumsteadville Grange #1738
Box 335
Plumsteadville, PA 18949