

PENNSYLVANIA GRANGE NEWS

March / April 2017



GRANGE 2017-18 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PA State Grange • legislation@pagrangerange.com

PA State Grange has over 200 distinct legislative positions representing member input. Here are several key areas where we plan to focus efforts for the 2017-18 legislative session.

Pension Reform

Pennsylvania school districts face higher pension costs each year. We support pension reform to protect the future solvency of the pension system.

Property Tax Reform

Property taxes penalize Pennsylvanian property owners and the Grange works to develop realistic alternatives. In addition, we again seek property tax exemption for our historic Grange Halls.

Full Agriculture Funding

Full funding of PA Department of Agriculture efforts for food safety and the many other programs such as agricultural research and the Cooperative Extension Service benefiting farmers and others in rural Pennsylvania is a must!

Rural Economic Resources

We appreciate the value of such programs as PA Preferred which stimulates consumer demand for PA products. Much more must be done to help the rural economy, for example, pushing for full-scale industrial hemp production. In addition, the Grange backs workforce programs to help focus youth into careers benefiting rural PA. We are committed to supporting Crop Insurance as an economic safety net for rural farm families.

Rural Health

Confronting the opioid/heroin crisis must be a top priority for the General Assembly but that is not the only health issue. The Grange seeks to help make long-term care insurance more affordable, promote health care access to rural areas and target resources to help medical care and food reach those in need.

Property Rights

Property owners' rights range from exempting agricultural buildings from punitive zoning or other local practices and opposing policies which impede the normal practice of farming. In addition, the Grange seeks to protect property owners' interests regarding pipelines and property owners' legal rights relating to natural gas extraction.

Environmental Issues

While appreciating the importance of conservation practices to reduce pollution, onerous Federal oversight amounts to effectively punishing rural Pennsylvania. We support voluntary conservation efforts through conservation district education..

Regulatory Issues

The Federal Government increasingly expands its authority with regard to farming. In addition to EPA and the Chesapeake Bay, there is also the Food Safety Modernization Act from the Food & Drug Administration and the redefinition of Waters of the US where the Federal Government exercises authority over much of the water used to sustain farming. PA State Grange seeks to help farmers understand their new compliance requirements.

Rural Access

The Grange wants rural Pennsylvania to have full access to resources such as Broadband access and have continued land line telephone access.

Education

The Grange works to improve the quality of education and promotes agriculture as an integral part of vocational education. We support the integrity of school districts to have greater control over students' education as well as keeping school district authority local or regional rather than having top-down imposition of unfunded mandates or forcible consolidations by the state.





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The tug-of-war between economic health and environmental concerns

*Cover photography by:
88 Dragon Design Studio
(Heather Hiller)
www.88dragon.com
(Allegheny Grange #1843)*



Free-range mixed breed rooster enjoying an April morning in Lycoming County.

Mrs. Hiller is a 4th generation Granger



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From the President's Desk

Elizabeth Downey
PA State Grange President
president@pagrange.org



We begin by extending our desires to every reader for a wonderful new year.

As I write this, we are in the midst of the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. We are also working on the Planning meeting, Special Budget meeting and Spring activities including our annual day on "the Hill" visiting your legislators.

Sometimes I marvel at how busy we always seem to be but isn't that the nature of a Grange full of vitality? Reading your newsletters is always interesting to see just how active various Granges are. An active Grange is a good thing; keep busy and out of trouble!! And speaking of newsletters, if yours is one of those Granges without a newsletter, please create one. It is a great way to keep your membership informed.

There will be an entirely new administration in office in D.C. as you read this. Lots of changes will be the order of the day. Stay informed and be participatory in your activities with your legislators.

National Grange Session went well with an election of all officers. We are thrilled that our own Betsy Huber is once again President. Congratulations, Betsy! All of us in Pa Grange wish to thank everyone who worked so hard on the planning aspect of hosting NG Session and those who participated. Christie Straub and Kimberly Cummins Myers did a wonder-

ful job coordinating everything. I can't thank them enough. We also appreciate those who helped in all the aspects of session from the registration desk to preparing that outstanding food on Friday to a totally amazing Sixth Degree presentation and everything in between. I have received compliments on Pa State Grange from so many other state presidents.

We have heard only positive comments on the new Pa State Grange magazine, Pennsylvania Grange News. Do not hesitate to call either the publisher or myself with any comments or suggestions. All readers are encouraged to either advertise our own businesses or to contact the publisher to get a media kit for larger companies/businesses/organizations. Please help with this; your PGN comes as part of your membership dues. Help us continue to produce a newsworthy publication by seeking advertising.

At NG Session we learned among many things that NG has a new magazine about to hit the racks. "Good Day" will come out in February. You can subscribe online at \$15.00 a year.

Finally, Pa State Grange does not have an 800 phone number anymore. Please use 717-737-8855 which has always been our alternative number.



Pennsylvania Grange News

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November 7th

March/April Issue
January 6th

May/June Issue
March 3rd

July/August Issue
May 5th

September/October Issue
July 7th

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Chaplain's Corner

Judy Pressler
PA State Grange Chaplain

Greetings from your Chaplain in Central Pennsylvania,

As I write this article for the March-April issue, I can't help think of the old sayings, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb," and "April showers bring May flowers." Let's assume this will be situation in 2017.

Usually when we think of a lion, it conjures up a picture of a foreboding monster threatening our very being and unleashing fear, anxiety and/or distress. And, actually, this is the time of year when we are surrounded and becoming tired of the dark nights, muddy yards and bare trees which can lead to feelings of despair and depression.

Then during this Lenten season, Christians concentrate on repentance and introspection which bares the very teeth of our dark and sinful nature. This, of course, leads us up to the somber days of Holy Week and culminates with the death of Jesus on that hideous cross. We just might tend to recognize the "Lion" among us.

However, the exciting news of His resurrection on that glorious Easter morning dispels the darkness and uncertainty of our future and guides us to the peacefulness we crave so much. He promised and has delivered over and over,

the showers of blessings that are ours because of his sacrifice! We can bask calmly in the sunlight of His steadfast affection.

It behooves us to reflect on the meekness of the "Lamb" of God as he lovingly faced his destiny. When we accept, embrace and claim the Savior, we will unfold into a new creation more beautiful than the lilies of the field!

There is a lesson here for our Grangers as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the National Grange. It is a good time to look at our own Granges to see if we are still stuck in the "dark" ages. Are we sending ominous signals by crouching down and waiting to roar at new ideas or suggestions for change? Do we loom so large as to intimidate fresh input?

April is the month for renewal...when trees begin to bud, flowers begin shooting up out of the cold dark ground, and ladies even wash their windows for spring cleaning! So then, it is a great time for renewal in our Granges. Let's listen to those budding new members, let's let the new shoots have a role in the governing and let's clean house to get rid of old routines just because they've always worked before! Let's embrace a gentler, all-welcoming setting where the Lion can lay down (or at least co-exist) with the Lamb!

Have a Glorious Easter and Celebrate the Victory Over Darkness!

Prayerfully yours,
Judy Pressler

PGN Good News

"What members are saying about Pennsylvania Grange News"

I am a member of Beech grove grange #1089 in Wayne County, and want to compliment you on the latest edition of the Grange News. I enjoy the topics other than just the Grange happenings. Great job!

- Leroy Spoor

I would like to let you know how much I appreciated receiving this absolutely beautiful publication of the Grange News. What a pleasant surprise to see such wonderful pictures of all that has been happening since our last issue, but more so, the shots of our beautiful Pennsylvania with a great layout. I believe having Heather Hiller as our publisher is a wonderful decision.

I do have one suggestion for you to consider: Please have the mailing of each publication a week or more before the next deadline. I received this issue today, January 7th and on page 2, I see that the deadline for the March/April Issue is January 6th. That is certainly not time to make a reply or send information for the next issue.

- Janet McClellan Logan
Grange #109 (Centre County)

Thank you, Janet. We've corrected the issue which caused the first publication to come out later than we'd anticipated/planned on. - Heather Hiller

The newest version of our magazine looks very professional. The glossy pages are brighter and easier to read. There is a nice balance of photos and articles. I personally thought previous issues had too many photos and not enough articles. The font is easy to read and the article headlines pop out at the reader to grab attention. I love reading the issues.

- Gene Zvarick
Keystone Grange #2



Membership Matter's

Lizzie Bailey

PA State Grange Membership & PR
Director

Greetings! Let me provide a little background on me, I live in Shippensburg with my husband Cliff. We have 3 daughters, 2 grandsons and an entourage of pets. I have my BS in Business Management and I am working on my MA in Adult Education w/ TEOSOL. I am the president of the Cumberland Valley Grange 2104.

I come from a long line of family with creative talent, who are gifted to play instruments, sing, draw and write. For whatever reason, those talents were not bestowed on me! I asked my Gram, "Why can't I do those things?" She lovingly leaned over, gave me a hug, patted my hand and said, "Oh honey, you were given something better, the gift of gab." Well, let me tell you, there was never a truer statement than that. I love talking and meeting new people. So working in membership and PR is a very natural fit for me.

Grow your Grange, one invite at a time...

When your Grange is having special events, make sure to invite people to attend from your community and other organizations. It is a great way to grow membership. Members have told me that they don't always feel comfortable

inviting others, as they are afraid of rejection. I've worked in sales & marketing most of my life. An employer told me when I started a new sales position not to get discouraged. He shared, "For every 10 people that you talk to and ask to buy, 9 will probably say no." So, I understood, I would hear "no's." For the first few months this was true. I built up my confidence, improved my presentation and I discovered the more I asked others to buy, my closing percentages improved. My advice is, "Invite, invite, invite!"

Friends of the Grange...

Another very important tip is to network with other organizations and people in your community. Don't hesitate to ask others to volunteer. I refer to these volunteers as "Friends of the Grange." I find there are people who truly don't have a lot of free time to join one more organization, but they are willing to help with an event that interests them. If you cultivate your connections, it will bring people closer to your Grange as potential members and provides volunteers for your events. It may surprise you how your list of contacts and members will grow.

Lizzie Bailey

PA Grange Membership/PR Director

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 6th Degree's

Lexus Johnson of Hookstown Grange & Sara Benzio of Fairview Grange (Beaver County), Kitz Sheha of Victor Grange & Lisa Musser of Penns Valley Grange (Centre County), Joyce D. Dietrich of Cumberland Valley Grange & Lynn A. Dietrich of Cumberland Valley Grange (Cumberland County), Chelsea Winters of Elizabethtown Grange & Kelsea Eisenbise of Elizabethtown Grange (Lancaster County), Julia E. Jacobson of Mahoning Valley Grange (Lawrence County), and Kathryn Bailey of Sheango Grange (Mercer County)

PA STATE GRANGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pennsylvania State Grange is now accepting applications for the following scholarships:

PA State Grange Foundation - available to any Granger, in good standing, entering their Junior or Senior year at any institute of higher learning, studying any subject.

Rhone Scholarship - eligible candidates must be pursuing a degree in agriculture or human development and family services at Penn State, and be a Grange member in good standing.

Deaf Interpreter Scholarship - applicants must be a Grange member, in good standing, and enrolled in a credible program leading to certification as an interpreter for the deaf.

Santee Student Loans - interest free loans available to Grange members and their children.

Additional information and applications are available at www.pagrang.org, or by calling the State Grange office at: 1-717-737-8855.

Deadline: Applications MUST be postmarked by May 1st, 2017!

"Snapshots"

from the 2017 Farm Show

We THANK our 2017 Farm Show Volunteers!!!

Wayne & Debbie Campbell, Clifford Bailey, Lorena Baughman, Joyce Dietrich, Betsy Huber (National President), Rachel Bailey, Barb Gross, Barbara Warden, Lindsay Schroder, Derek Schroeder, Ellen Wadsworth, Lurae Benzio, Casey Kerschner, Philip Vonada, Jennifer Nauss, Jeffery Mc Carthney, Kaylen Leiby, Heather Drukenmiller, Patrick Wadsworth, Jennifer Beamon, Cumberland Queen - Brittany Graham, Cumberland Jr Princess- Abby Stouffer, Cumberland Jr Queen- Audry Evans, Sue Ann Johnson, Bernie Downey, Jordan Downey, Sara Benzio, Dorothy Houtz



Photography by: 88 Dragon Studio

March/April 2017



Youth News!!!



The Pennsylvania Youth and Young Adults have been busy through the winter season. Pennsylvania was fortunate to have several youth involved in the National Grange Convention in DC. Gail Switzer participated at the Trimble Legislative Experience recipient. Lindsay Schroeder was one of the Communications Fellows. Philip Vonada served as Master on the National Grange Youth Officer Team along

with Derek Snyder who served as Assistant Steward. Philip Vonada and Gail Switzer placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the Grange Jeopardy contest. PA Youth and Young Adults also participated in the Evening of Excellence, both in the Talent as well as the Sign-a-

Song. We are very proud of these great youth and young adults!

The Youth Ambassadors and Outstanding Young Patrons, along with the Junior Grange Prince and Princess, recently represented the Pennsylvania State Grange at the PA Preferred Farm Show Reception and Opening Ceremonies, getting

pictures with the Governor and Secretary of Agriculture, and sampling wonderful food from PA Preferred products.

Upcoming events include

- Youth and Young Adults Committee planning meeting - January 27-28. If you

have any suggestions or ideas that you would like to contribute, please post on our Facebook page or send to youth@pagrange.org.

- Young Adults Weekend - March 31-April 2. We are planning a weekend for the Young Adults in the western half of the state. Information will be posted on the website and Facebook once details are set.

- Leadership Training sessions - dates TBD. Beginning this spring all youth and young adults will be able to participate in leadership training activities at various locations in the state. Be watching the website and Facebook for announcements of this new effort!

- Youth Camp - 30 June - 2 July 2017. Save this date on your calendar! Once again we will meet at Camp Sylvan Hills for our annual Youth Camp. Camp information will be in the next issue of the Pennsylvania Grange News. - Ellen Wadsworth (Youth Director)





Junior News!!!



Hello Junior Grangers! We are a couple of months into 2017 and I hope the new year is treating you great! The Junior Grange commit-

tee's birthday? Well, it is the 150th Birthday anniversary year for the National Grange and we are going to celebrate with games, balloons, a piñata and cake of course! And I want to see SEVERAL Talent Show entrants. This is an AWESOME time to show off and share your talents and skills in music, vocal or variety.

The third event that I want to see many Juniors at is the 2017 PA State Session being held the weekend of Oct. 19-22 and will be held in Scranton, PA. Watch for more information and news about this in future Grange News editions.

As always – continue inviting your friends to join you on your Junior Grange Journey.

Invite them to events, meetings, activities and when you do community service work with your Granges. It is so much fun to do all of these things with friends... who become some of your best friends in life.

-Lurau Benzio
(Junior Director)



tee and I have already had a couple of meetings to discuss some of the Junior Events that we hope all of you will attend this year.

Mark your calendar for our journey to the Wild Wild West as we make our way to the PA State Junior Camp the week of July 2-8 at Sylvan Hills Christian Camp in Howard, PA. The Camp application will be available on April 1st and I will email to those who request it or attach it in the files section of our Facebook page. There will also be a copy in the May/June edition of the Grange News.

The next event that is always a fun time is the Family Festival Weekend in July, just a few weeks after camp. The dates for this year is July 20-23 and it will be held at the Centre Co. Fairgrounds in Centre Hall. This is a family camping weekend and this year's theme is a Birthday Celebration! And you may be wondering who is celebrating





PIPELINES CONTINUE TO BE A BALANCING ACT

Editorial by: Elizabeth "Beth" Downey
President, Pennsylvania State Grange
Photography by: 88 Dragon Studio

Pipelines are certainly in the public eye right now. Pipeline builders just won a legal victory when Cumberland County property owners lost in their bid to void the eminent domain used to allow pipeline construction to take place. Pipeline proponents speak out about economic benefits to Pennsylvanians because of the development infrastructure which enables transit of natural gas to



other parts of the country and the world, and in some cases, pipeline reconstruction as is taking place in Armstrong and Indiana Counties. These benefits are perceived as boons to the PA economy far above the specific jobs created because of construction. Others suggest that pipeline construction is a recipe for environmental disaster with a looming specter of pipeline ruptures and consequences to water and human health.

Economic Development and Growth

The PA State Grange believes that there must be a balance somewhere between two ends of the spectrum where some environmentalists may feel that all pipeline installation is bad because they fear a disaster or simply cannot stand the idea of fossil fuels being used versus the other end of the spectrum that supports

unbridled development. While environmental concerns may be reasonable, there are larger issues that must also be considered. If construction/installation and use of water considered in these proposals is found to be appropriate with adequate protection of the environment, policymakers should look at:

- Economic impact on the area, the state, and even the Nation. Energy pipeline transmission means economic activity and jobs.
- Economic diffusion. Nothing happens in a vacuum. If there is economic development in an area such as en-



ergy, there are diffused benefits too, such as with inputs which themselves expand economically creating more jobs.

- Social impact on distressed rural communities which are revitalized because of these energy investments.

There always seems to be a tug-of-war between economic health and environmental concerns. While the balance may be something to be wrestled with, economic benefits of pipeline construction should not be lost nor should the economic health re-

sulting from a viable Pennsylvania industry be understated.

The supportive position taken by the PA State Grange for economic development should not overlook two key areas.

Everything has consequences but some actions are more permanent than others. The wrong installation, the wrong soil and water analysis, improperly analyzed consequences of the pipeline installation all have impact. The destructive effect of a misstep on the environment could be immense. A major fear held by rural residents is the fear of a pipeline rupture.

In the Wallis Run area of Lycoming County (PA), a gasoline pipeline rupture took place in October 2016, as described by Associated Press writers Ron Todt and Mark Scolfolo:

A storm late Thursday into Friday dumped up to 7 inches of rain on areas in western and central Pennsylvania, triggering mudslides, turning roads into rivers and sweeping away at least two homes. Hundreds more were damaged in Centre County, home to Penn State's main campus. One man was killed when a tree crashed into his home. The flooding caused an 8-inch Sunoco Logistics pipeline that carries gasoline, diesel and home heating oil to rupture, spilling an estimated 54,600 gallons of gasoline into a tributary of the Loyalsock Creek. The creek runs into the west branch of the





Susquehanna River, but the company said Saturday that “no petroleum-related compounds” had been detected in the river.

Thankfully, according to the article, the gasoline was diluted enough not to cause pollution in the Susquehanna River but it could have. But did the pipeline rupture because of a construction defect, perhaps insufficient protection along the line? If so, could the spill have been prevented with better construction safeguards? Could a more careful vetting of the original permitting for this pipeline installation have prevented this occurrence?

Placed in context, there were 71 pipeline ruptures in the United States in 2015 and 2016 according to Wikipedia. Thankfully, only four occurred in Pennsylvania:

- On June 9, 2015, a 24-inch natural gas pipeline ruptured in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. About 130 individuals were evacuated from their homes. No injuries or damage reported. There was no fire. The cause was Stress corrosion cracking.
- On July 15, 2015, two workers were hurt by an explosion, when a bulldozer hit a 4-inch gas pipeline, at an EQT gas compressor station in Worthington, Pennsylvania. *(The pipeline rupture was the result of a bulldozer and not caused by a construction defect.)*
- On April 29, 2016, a 30-inch Texas Eastern/Spectra Energy pipeline exploded, injuring one man, destroying his home and damaging several others. The in-

cident was reported at 8:17 a.m., near the intersection of Routes 819 and 22 in Salem Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Later, Spectra Energy Corp. announced plans to dig up and assess 263 miles of that pipeline, from Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Corrosion had been detected at



main and when private property can be taken for a public purpose.

Regulators and citizens alike might take note of Act 35 of 2006 sponsored by former PA Senator Jeffrey Piccola (R-Dauphin) that restricted eminent domain. This law eliminated a portion of state redevelopment law that allowed a municipality or authority to declare eminent domain by cit-



the failed seam 4 years before the rupture.

- And of course, the October 21, 2016, spill in Lycoming County previously cited.

It is fair to register this concern because government regulators have a huge responsibility to make sure that the construction and installation of pipelines is solid. What causes a rupture? If not caused by human error, could it be caused by something to do with the initial construction/installation?

Property Rights

The other Grange concern is being mindful of the rights of rural property owners. Pipeline routes are easily the most contested parts of a pipeline’s approval process. It gets to the question of eminent do-



ing “economically or socially undesirable land uses.” Even though this law does not specifically address pipeline construction issues *(since it was passed in PA in reaction to a Connecticut action that took out private homes in a neighborhood in order to build a shopping area for economic development of*

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Government Matter's
Vince Phillips
 PA State Grange Lobbyist

A CHANCE TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

(D-Monroe)

- **Rep Zachary Mako** (R-Lehigh/Northampton)

Second, on whom should you focus?

The quick answer is to start on your elected Representative and Senator. As community figures, they have a local presence and are accessible. You may be going to church with them, your kids or grandkids may be on the same soccer team, you may be in the same civic club like Elks, Rotary, Lions, etc.

What is your message?

Third, what is your message?

What do you want them to know? What do you want them to do? The answer to that depends on you. What public issues do you think about? Does your community need property tax relief? Should the state tax Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction? Should the state provide more (or less) to fund education? Where should state spending be increased or reduced? These are all examples of what private citizens have expressed in one form or another and there are a thousand additional topics to choose from because as citizens, our views are diverse. However, in addition to speaking your own mind, you belong to an organization which has advocated for rural Pennsylvanians since 1873. The PA State Grange has and will stand with you to defend you, your family and your community.

Forth, what is the PA State Grange's message?

It is probably the same as yours but the PA State Grange has taken specific policy positions on many issues. These can be a guide to help you advocate your message to the lawmaker or staff. The PA State Grange has more than 200

distinct positions. These include the expansive – adequate funding for the PA department of Agriculture to do its job and to fund agricultural research and the Extension education programs. These policy positions also include highly specific topics such as urging PennDOT to curb its use of herbicides and defoliants when maintaining roadsides. In addition, PA State Grange also has numbers of statements relating to current issues. On January 6, for example, the PA State Grange urged EPA to be mindful of rural needs when making awards to replace older polluting diesel buses. To see the policy positions, please go to <http://www.pagrang.org/legislative.html>.

Fifth, meet with the legislator

Some options:

- Have a cup of coffee at the local diner to informally get acquainted
- Formal meeting in the district office with one or more Grangers
- Invite the legislator to a Grange meeting, either to speak or simply to be a guest and mingle

The goal of meeting is to establish a relationship or nurture an existing one. Sometimes, there may be a specific happening that prompts a meeting such as a particular vote or that the legislator is appointed to or chairs a relevant committee. In keeping with the article's theme of 'A Chance to Influence Policy', these new committee chairs need input, your input. If you don't establish a relationship

Members of the PA State Grange have a tremendous opportunity right now to help decide the future of rural Pennsylvania with the swearing in of the 2017-18 session of the General Assembly. These new lawmakers will possibly be not as well informed on issues of interest to you and you have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor to become an unofficial advisor. This article will give tips on what to do in six easy steps.

First, who is your legislator?

Even though many familiar faces have returned to the legislature, there are a good number of newly elected legislators. A link to find this information is www.legis.state.pa.us. It will also give you their contact information – phone numbers, addresses, etc. Following is a list of new legislators who represent rural areas.:

- **Senator John DiSanto** (R-Dauphin/Perry)
- **Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr.** (Bedford, Cambria, Clearfield)
- **Senator Daniel Laughlin** (R-Erie)
- **Senator Scott Martin** (R-Lancaster)
- **Senator Mike Regan** (R-Cumberland/York)
- **Rep Matthew Dowling** (R-Fayette/Somerset)
- **Representative Jonathan Fritz** (R-Susquehanna/Wayne)
- **Rep Maureen Madden**



with him/her, the legislator will get advice from someone else.

Some examples of committee chairmanship changes in 2017 that might warrant a meeting include:

- **Senator Scott Hutchinson** (R-Venango) is the new chair of the Senate Finance Committee -- This committee handles taxation legislation.
- **Senator John Eichelberger** (R-Blair) now chairs the Senate Education Committee.
- **Senator Pat Stefano** (R-Fayette/Somerset/Westmoreland) now heads the Senate Game & Fisheries Committee.
- **Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski** (D-Luzerne) is the new minority chair of the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee.
- **Rep. Rob Kauffman** is the new majority chair of the House Labor & Industry Committee. Rep. John Galloway (D-Bucks) is the new minority chair. -- This committee handles Workers' Compensation legislation.
- **Rep. Dave Hickernell** (R-Lancaster) now chairs the House Education Committee.
- The new minority chair of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee is **Rep. Mike Carroll** (D-Lackawanna). Last session, he was minority chair of the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee.

Sixth, or maybe ahead of meeting with the legislator, call for backup

Your association can provide you with tools to help you make that meeting a success and depending on schedule, come in to join you at the meeting. To those who are not into government issues much, having a meeting can seem intimidating but it doesn't have to be. Coaching for legislative meetings is what we do. Take advantage of it. 717-737-8855 or legislation@pagrange.org



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the area), it is a reminder however of the importance of respecting the property of private landowners and minimizing the impact of pipeline construction whether by the construction itself or the use of resources to build the pipeline. <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?s-Year=2005&sInd=0&body=s&type=b&bn=881>

Act 35 does not address eminent domain re pipelines head-on but it does show the tension between public purpose (economic development) and private rights. It also asks the question of who ultimately benefits from a pipeline. Is the benefit going to the citizens of Pennsylvania whose economy has been helped or does it simply enrich private companies? One thing is certain. There will be no shortage of legal discourse surrounding these questions.

This discussion usually centers on individual property owners whose land is used for pipelines. There is another issue: the common ownership of water. While not explicitly tied to pipelines (more to the use of water in fracking), there are water-related issues. Government entities such as the Susquehanna Basin Commission must give approval if large amounts of water are taken.

The PA Constitution states



that water is a shared natural resource and that it belongs to us collectively. A question is if the legal taking of a shared resource conflicts with individual property rights. Is the taking of this shared resource in conflict with its taking for a commercial purpose? Does the commercial purpose outweigh the shared resource idea or does the commercial purpose translate into the public good? Does eminent domain apply if the common ownership of water becomes important in assessing these applications?

Suffice it to say that these sorts of questions dig deeply into the tension between public goals and private rights, between private gain and public result. Thus, pipelines continue to be a question of balancing opposing principles of our society.



Pipelines Policy Position of the PA State Grange

The Grange supports, within the parameters of our current legislative policy regarding eminent domain, the renovation, upgrading, and construction of pipelines across Pennsylvania to take advantage of the economic development possibilities, well-paying jobs, and freedom from dependence on foreign oil that Pennsylvania-produced natural gas will bring to our community. (2015)

Granges shall work together to provide a vital community service by becoming involved in the pipeline expansion process to assure the rights of the private landowner are preserved in the process of leasing of rights of way. (2015)



Grange News

WESTFIELD GRANGE #1514, from Enon Valley, PA. honored their members with Membership awards from PA State Grange and National Grange.

Pictured below: Members holding their letters with seals from PA State Grange. Rear: Ivan Raney: 60 years, Donald Fox: 80 years, Lloyd Raney: 70 years, Joan Raney: 60 years. Front: Robert Kenny: 60 years, Carolyn Raney:



contributed in memory of their brother, Jesse Rumberger, a long-time Halfmoon Granger.



65 years, Alma Kenny: 60 years. Missing from the photo: Richard Martin: 65 years, Sally Martin: 60 years.

Member Donald Fox receiving his 80 year National Certificate from Pomona Master JV Lamb and Westfield Master Carolyn Raney



Submitting this on behalf of **CENTRE COUNTY POMONA:** Conferral of the first four Degrees was held on September 29 at **Logan Grange** in Pleasant Gap. Fourteen candidates were in attendance, representing four Granges from the County.

Pictured, below: Front Row L-R: Peg Potalivo, Curtis Scott, Jenny Boone, Kathleen Potalivo, Myken Poorman, Kristi Stringer.

Back Row L-R: Nancy Wise, Kay Larimer, Lisa Musser, Russell Judy, Cindy Puff, Ryan Poorman, Brian

Stringer, Justin Kurtz



VIRGINVILLE GRANGE #1832, from Virginville, PA, celebrated their Christmas Celebration on December 21, 2016, with a Covered Dish Social.

Virginville Grange celebrates

the Christmas season with donations

- \$1,000 Cathy (Levan) Hansley of Centre Township, local farm family and widow with five children, to assist with their holiday season.

- \$5,000 Russell O. Miller of Blandon, Virginville Granger who has been experiencing unknown medical issues for the past two years, received the monies raised as a result of a benefit dance sponsored by Virginville Grange on Saturday, November 26, 2016.

- \$5,300 Tom L. Krick of Perry Township, local area resident assisted with expenses after being involved in an automobile accident. This donation was the result of a benefit bingo event held November 6th, at the Grange Hall.

Pictured below - L to R: Cathy (Levan) Hansley and her five children; Sherrie Krick, VG Christmas Committee member; Elaine N. Miller, VG Promotion Committee member;



Russell O. Miller; Tom L. Krick; and Lee Gougler, VG Community Service Committee member.

HALFMOON GRANGE #290, in Centre County, dedicated new draperies at the December Christmas meeting. Three Rumberger sisters purchased, made and hung the new draperies and even cleaned the hall as part of their gift. *Pictured (above right) with Barbara Brodzina, former Master (center) are (l to r) Martha Colbert and Doris Bickle. Teddie Wineland was unable to be there due to bad weather. Their sister-in-law also*

BUTLER COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #17. In late 2016

Richard Mangel, Master and Virginia Mangel, Family Activity Director of the Butler County Pomona Grange #17 had the honor to present 13 certificates and awards to 13 of the Butler County 4H members *(pictured opposite top)* for their project books. Virginia Mangel and Ann Freehling had to judge over 72, 4H project books before coming up with the 13 winners. Our hope is to work closer



with the different 4H clubs within Butler County and give them the opportunity to become Grange



members when they can no longer be a 4H member.

Also at Butler: Awards Night held at the All Grangers Banquet on October 3rd, 2016; hosted by Donegal Grange. Among the awards given was our Granger of the Year Award. This year the award was shared by two men; Dick Mangel (*pictured below*) of



Unionville Grange #1971, and Mike Shake (*pictured above*) of Donegal Grange #1495. These two men are very dedicated in the work they do for their Grange and their Pomona Grange. Rodney Fleeger, of Unionville, and Ann Freehling, of Jefferson, respectfully presented the honors. Also awarded that night was a 55 year membership to Faye Mahalik, a member of Unionville Grange.

SCHNECKSVILLE GRANGE #1684, in Coplay, PA. celebrated their 100th Anniversary of Schnecksville Grange on Friday, November 11, 2016 starting at 6:00 p.m. with a program.

Our State President/Master Elizabeth "Beth" Downey was in attendance and gave a very inspiring speech on the Future of the Grange, She also handed out the membership awards and pins.

National & State Citations & Proclamation were read by the State Master and by Hon. State Representative Gary Day.

Program was presented by Mike Adams of Hamburg Grange, Berks County. He was the 2015 State Talent Winner. After the Program we celebrated with

Refreshment and a 100th Anniversary Cake. There were table of memorabilia on several tables dating back to the secretary minutes of 1916.

(*picture below/left*) Members not on Picture: Joel Andreoli, Shannon Ciamacco, Carol Cole, Ann Ker, Andrea Lazarus, Curtis Rabert, Dorothy Rabert, Jill Schlosser, Lisa Semmel, Nancy Semmel, Scott Stewart

ORIENTAL GRANGE #165

October 2016: Members, of Mill City, Wyoming County, standing with Christmas gifts they collected for distribution to local needy children. The gifts were given to Interfaith Friends in Tunkhannock. (*standing left to right: Will Eggleston, Eppie Church, Judy Shupp, Pat Gunton, Pam Fagerin, Hilda Lewis, & Dale Shupp*)



November 2016: President Russ Gunton presenting donation to Chef Corey DeLeo of the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen in Tunkhannock, Whyoming County. Oriental Grange and Interfaith Friends prepared and served Thanksgiving



ing Dinner to 45 guests at Seven Loaves.



(Seated) Lee Heintzelman, Carl Heintzelman, Henry & Joyce Shankweiler, (1st Row) Paul Semmel, Shirley Schneck, Ronald & Eleanor Kleckner, State President/Master Elizabeth "Beth" Downing, Althea Grim, Hubert Sell, Janet Muth, (2nd row) Gay DeAngelis, Curtis Schneck, Ruth & Donald Weaver, Leon Grim, Dean Snyder, Terry Muth, (3rd Row) Grace Sell, Roger & Linda Sell, Robert & Megan Heintzelman, Richard & Patricia Stewart





Back to the Land: Seed Starting Demystified

Few tasks are more rewarding than growing your own plants from seed. If you haven't done this before, and you find it intimidating, here are some guidelines to simplify the process

Which seed catalogs to choose?

Choose seed companies in the Northeast. They provide varieties adapted to our area, whereas more distant companies may offer plant materials best suited to other regions of North America.

How to read seed catalogs



The best catalogs include details such as the correct botanical name of the flower or vegetable, its color, whether it grows in sun or shade, its water requirements, and the mature height and spread of the plant. Icons will indicate a plant's traits. Read the key, as the symbols are not the same in all catalogs. An important factor is the cold hardiness zone. The USDA hardiness map cites Pennsylvania as ranging from 5a to 7b (the lower the number the colder the region.) It may be prudent to choose plants suitable for a zone lower than what is recorded for your area because of the early or late killing frosts we experience. Catalogs sometimes tell you if the plant is new or improved which means the variety has changed, hopefully for the better. Please remember their pho-

tos show the mature plant at its best; perennials may not look that way the first year.

How many seeds to order

For a modest sized garden choose the vegetables and varieties your family enjoys most. Don't forget to grow some flowers in your vegetable garden to encourage pollinators. Many annual flowers, like marigolds and zinnias, are very easy to grow from seed and they are great for beginners. One packet of seeds of each variety should be plenty. As a general rule, one packet will be enough for a 10- to 30-foot row.

"You probably don't need to mimic the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (pictured below), which safe-



Sowing Timetable

To plan the best time to start seedlings indoors in spring, you need to know the approximate date of the average last spring frost in your area. Count back from that date the number of weeks indicated below to determine the appropriate starting date for various crops. An asterisk (*) indicates a cold-hardy plant that can be set out 4 to 6 weeks before the last frost.

12 to 14 weeks: onions*, leeks*, chives*, pansies*, impatiens, and coleus

8 to 12 weeks: peppers, lettuce*, cabbage-family crops*, petunias, snapdragons*, alyssum*, and other hardy annual flowers

6 to 8 weeks: eggplants, tomatoes

5 to 6 weeks: zinnias, cockscombs (*Celosia* spp.), marigolds, other tender annuals

2 to 4 weeks: cucumbers, melons, okra, pumpkins, squash

Information obtained from: <http://www.rodalorganicle.com>

keeps more than 10,000 seed samples of more than 2,000 cultivars for 300 different species" - note from the PGN Publisher.

When to start your seedlings

Plan to start your seeds indoors so they are at the correct stage of development to move outside after the last frost. To check when the last frost date is for your region go to: http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/fact-sheets/general-gardening/transplanting-annuals/extension_publication_file. It is smart to wait another week before planting, if the weatherman predicts frost at that time. Follow the instructions on the seed packet and use the calendar to figure out the sowing dates. Always read the directions on the seed packet as larger seeds, such as beans and corn, do best if you sow them directly into the garden. Write the sowing date on each seed

packet and group together with other packets having the same sowing time.

Containers

You will need containers with holes for drainage and trays to catch excess water. Seed flats, Styrofoam cups, plastic tubs, foil baking dishes and old plastic plant six-packs are suitable. You can purchase a seed starting kit that includes a tray of cells and a humidity dome, but it's not necessary to spend the money. Most important, your containers must be properly sterilized before using them. Wash them in soapy water and then rinse with a solution of one part chlorine bleach and 10 parts water. Dry thoroughly before adding the growing mix.

Growing mix

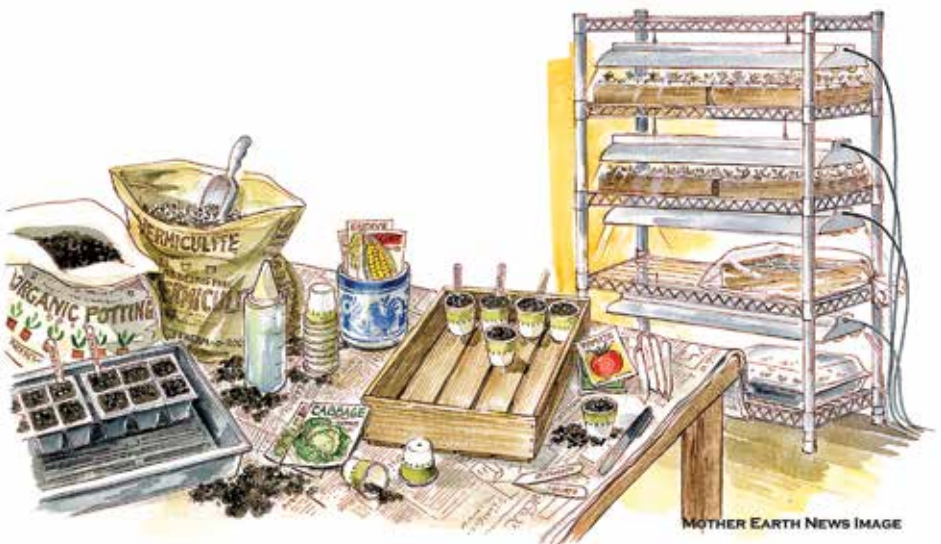
Purchase a commercially prepared mix especially for seed starting. The medium should be sterile, loose, well-drained, and of fine texture. Also, buy vermiculite to cover the seeds as this encourages seed germination.

Step-by-step procedure

Moisten the seed starting mix and fill the container to within $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the top. Remember to make sure the container has adequate drainage.

Use a clean small board to level and firm the mix. Do not press too hard.

Make shallow rows about 1-2 inches apart with a narrow board.



Sow seeds uniformly and thinly in the rows. Label the rows immediately, especially when you plant different seeds in one flat. If you are sowing only one type of seed you may scatter them over the surface.



Cover the seeds with vermiculite to a depth of about two times their diameter, leaving very fine seeds uncovered. Moisten the surface with a fine mist, or place the container in a pan of warm water.

Cover the container with a plastic film or a plastic bag. No additional watering will be needed until after germination.

Place the tray in a warm place, not in direct sunlight, with a temperature of 65° – 75°F. You can use a heated seed-starting mat.

Once seedlings emerge, remove the plas-

tic film and place the container in a bright south window, or under a fixture equipped with two cool white fluorescent tubes. Leave the seedlings under the lights for 14-16 hours each day. Do not over-water; allow drying between waterings, being careful the seedlings don't wilt.

If you need to thin your seedlings, nip some off at the soil line with scissors. If necessary, transplant overcrowded seedlings to individual pots after they have at least one set of true leaves.

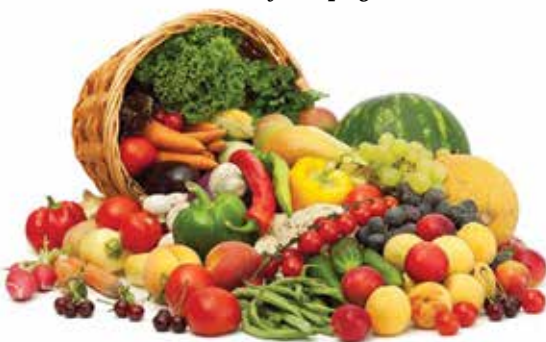
Grasp the seedlings by the leaf to avoid damage to the stem.



article continued on page 18



article continued from page 17



Hardening off and planting out

Gradually introduce your seedlings to the garden after threat of frost. Place them in dappled shade for about five days before moving them into a sunny location, gradually increasing the length of exposure, for another five days. When your plants are large enough for easy handling and hardening-off is complete, the time has come to plant them into the garden. To reduce the shock of transplanting,

select a cloudy day for the task. Dig a hole twice as wide as the plant. Carefully remove the plant, retaining as much soil as possible, and set it in the hole at the same level it was growing in the flat. Place soil loosely around the roots and fertilize with a weak solution of fish emulsion.

It is not too early to dream and plan; with seed catalogs in hand you can begin the most rewarding and enjoyable of garden projects.



Welcome New Members!

Dawson Grange #419

James Fabian
Lisa Stimmel

New Vernon Grange #608

Jenny Parker

Kimmerling Grange #1529

Jonna Reilly
Kenneth E Baker Jr
Phyllis Simmons

Ontelaunee Grange #1617

Karen & Allyson Rea

Unity Grange #1710

Steve Jacobi and Laura Kortright

Virginville #1832

Larry Adam
Dwight Wanamaker
Faye Brown
Erica Berger

Fleetwood Grange #1839

Sher & Associates

Hookstown Grange #1980

Deana Grimplin
Walker Grange #2007
Ryan Poorman
Myken Poorman

Happy Birthday!

Sanatoga #25

Adam Wambach / January
Esther Garner / January

Milford Grange #773

Iva Book / November
Dorothy Aughey / January

Burgettstown Grange #1502

Betty Ulrich / February

Central Grange #1650

Warren Creitz / March
Pearl Wonderly / April

Virginville #1832

Betty Seidel / November
May LaFaver / January
Mt. Nebo Grange # 1872
Dr. Donald Goetsch / December

Gideon Grange #2010

Norman B Nace Jr, / March

Buffalo Grange #1523

Russell Struck / February
Lloyd Knox / February
Robert Johnston / January
Alice Grimm / January

In Memoriam:

Union Grange #325

Almeda Carver

Milford Grange #773

Charles Aughey

Vernon Grange #936

Bernice Hough

Chestnut Ridge #1133

Lucile Jenkins

Fairdale Grange #1157

Judy Hibbard

Article reprinted from the Penn State Extension Office website. Pamela T. Hubbard, Penn State Master Gardener of Monroe County

Roseville Grange #1290

Jeanne Miller

Jefferson Grange #1373

Howard Halstead

Buffalo Grange #1523

Russell Stuck

East New Castle Grange #1536

Henry Wellhausen

Ontelaunee Grange #1617

Dorothy Merkel

Irene Werley

Central Grange #1650

Marilyn Bear

Liberty Grange #1780

Betty Richardson

Dayton Grange #1819

Robert Patrick

Mt. Nebo #1872

Lois Wessel

Virginville #1832

Cheryl Hammond

Kutztown Grange #1836

John C Schaeffer

Mt. Nebo #1872

Irene Wessel

Diahoga Grange #1951

Daryl Parks (79yr member)

Big Knob Grange #2008

Mary Lee Herdt

Madison Grange #2064

Perry Kretzing

Buckhorn Grange #7119

Lillian Zimmerman

Announcements & Coming Events...

EVENTS:

BUTLER GRANGE #17

It is time to begin collecting all greetings cards of any kind or special event for a project that we promote in Butler County.

We have a nursing home that the people get together and make their own greeting cards from what you and I would throw away.

So again this year I would like anyone across the state to start collecting greeting cards for me as you did last year.

Bring them to the Family Festival or state session. I will take them for the home. Thanks for last years help.

They look forward to getting cards to work with and we enjoy helping our community out.

- Ginny Mangel

WESLEY GRANGE

Venango County, would like

you to put their Buckwheat Cake and Sausage Supper in the next issue. It is **March 25th** at the hall, starting to serve at 7:00 a.m. serving all day. All the whole hog sausage, buckwheat cakes, pancakes, blueberry cakes, cookies, and applesauce you can eat. Adults \$8, \$3 children

To celebrate **April** as National Grange Month, there will be an "On The Hill, Grange Meeting" some time in April. The dates haven't been solidified yet, so please keep an eye on www.pagrang.org, or call the office at (717) 737-8855.

Also in April: "Cornucopia" will be held **April 18th**, at 4:30 PM in the Capital Rotunda. This event is sponsored by PSCFO

In addition, **April 23-26th**, the National Grange will be holding their annual "LEGISLATIVE FLY

IN". This year, the event will be in DC. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.national-grange.org/fly-in/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The open enrollment period for Vision Insurance through the State Grange is June 1 - June 30 each year. If you wish to change the insurance plan you currently have or you would like to apply for insurance, it must be submitted in writing using an Enrollment Change Form. The form is available on our website or by contacting the State Grange office. Please call Jennifer Stewart at 717-737-8855 or 717-737-8856, if you have questions or need additional information. Change forms must be postmarked by June 30, 2017.

2017 CALENDAR				Holidays & Observances	
January	February	March	April	Jan 01 New Year's Day Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day Jan 28 Chinese New Year Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday Feb 14 Valentine's Day Feb 20 President's Day Mar 01 Ash Wednesday Mar 12 Daylight Saving (begins) Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day Mar 20 Vernal equinox Apr 01 April Fool's Day Apr 01 Passover Apr 14 Easter Apr 26 Admin Assistants Day May 04 Mother's Day May 27 Ramadan begins May 29 Memorial Day Jun 04 Pentecost Jun 14 Flag Day Jun 18 Father's Day Jun 21 Juno Solstice Jul 04 Independence Day Sep 04 Labor Day Sep 21 Rosh Hashanah Sep 22 Autumnal equinox Oct 09 Columbus Day Oct 31 Halloween Nov 05 Daylight Saving (ends) Nov 11 Veterans Day Nov 23 Thanksgiving Dec 12 Hanukkah begins Dec 21 December Solstice Dec 25 Christmas Day Dec 26 Kwanzaa begins Dec 31 New Year's Eve	
6-14th: Farm Show (Harrisburg) 12th: (10AM) Legislative meeting @ Farm Show (Delaware Room) (Harrisburg) 27-28th: Grange Planning Meeting (State College)			National Grange Month		
May	June	July	August		
	Dairy Month 30-July 2nd: Youth Camp (Howard)	2-8th: Junior Camp (Howard) 20-23rd: Family Festival (Centre Hall)	Date TBD: Ag Progress Days. (Pennsylvania Furnace)		
September	October	November	December		
	19-22nd: State Grange Session (Scranton)	Date TBD: National Grange Session			

Pennsylvania State Grange

Pennsylvania Grange News

20 Erford Road, Suite 216

Lemoyne, PA 17043

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WHAT IS THE PA FARM LINK?

Pennsylvania Farm Link, is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to
“Creating farming opportunities for the next generation.”

PFL accomplishes this mission through a land linking database which matches landowners with perspective entering farmers. Entering farmers are looking for land to establish their business; landowners are seeking someone to lease or purchase their farm and desire the land remain in farming. Through Pennsylvania Farm Link’s database, both goals may be met. This process positively impacts Pennsylvania Agriculture as well as economic and business and industry throughout the Commonwealth.

PA FARM LINK FARM SUCCESSION WORKSHOPS

Register online at www.pafarmlink.org or call 717-705-2121

*****Thursday, March 23rd, 2017: Blair County**

(Morrison’s Cove Memorial Park, 201 South Walnut Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662)

Registration Fee includes break: \$15.00 for 2 or more from same farm, \$18.00 individual

Registration Due: March 16th, 2017.

Topics include: Business, Legal & Tax Implication of Succession Planning, Financial Challenges of Succession Planning, Communication Challenges of Succession Planning, and Farm Family Meetings and Farmer Panel.