

POMONA ECHO

BERKS COUNTY POMONA GRANGE #43

FEBRUARY 2009

MASTER'S REPORT

by Ray Davis

I have some every important dates that you may want to post on your calendar. Saturday, March 21st the Leon Kirkhoff Reading Fair Memorial Scholarship Fund banquet will be held at the Ag Center, 7 p.m., ticket cost is adults \$8 and under age of 12, \$5. See Ray Davis, Steve Mohn or any Reading Fair Board Member for tickets.

March 27th the Legislative Banquet will be held at the Fleetwood Grange Hall, 7 p.m.

April 4th the Farm Family Appreciation Dinner will be held at the Hamburg Field House (registration form is included in this newsletter).

Reminder that each Grange is asked to present a resolution for our quarterly meeting in February.

Finally, I wish to THANK the members who braved and tried to attend our December Pomona meeting.

Haus Tournament and Game Night

When: March 7, 2009
Where: Shartlesville Grange hall
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: FREE

Everyone is invited to attend. If you don't play haus, bring your favorite game. Come out and enjoy a night of fun and fellowship.

ECHO IS ON THE WEBSITE

The Pomona ECHO is on the berkscountygrange.org website. So, if you would like to help Pomona save postage and receive your newsletter in advance of regular mailings, please notify Fern Kulp (clk19530@enter.net) or Tom Wike (tom.wike@gmail.com) of your email address. We will notify you when the ECHO is posted on the website instead of mailing you a copy. In addition, if you have any suggestions on improving the website, please let us know.

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Berks County Junior Grange News

Attendance Contest

The county grange gave the junior department \$150 to use for an incentive program to increase attendance at county events. To qualify, Juniors must sell at least one item of the Wolfgang fundraiser, and the junior must also enter a minimum of one junior contest (either National or State) in the year 2009. Beyond that, the junior must attend 6 or more of the following activities...

- Sleepover (in January)
- Road Rally (in April)
- Camp (in May)
- Knoebels (in June)
- Swimming (in July)
- Helping at ice cream/ice stand during the consignment sale (in August)
- Hike (in September)
- Bowling (in November)
- 4 choices of Pomona meetings

The prizes will be gift certificates for Walmart. If 30 or more juniors reach the attendance goal, the Junior Treasury will purchase 5 gift cards for a total number of 13 possible winners that will be drawn from all qualifying juniors. Good Luck Juniors!

March Pomona Meeting

The March Pomona meeting plans include making decorations for county camp, and learning more about our camp community service project.

Counselors - this is NEW!!

Are you over the age of 18? Are you planning on being a counselor at Berks County Junior Grange Camp this year? If you answered yes to both of those questions, you must have Child Clearances. If you do have clearances and they are from more than 2 years ago, by PA State Grange mandate, you must reapply for your clearances. This needs to be applied for ASAP so you have them in time for camp! The county grange will reimburse your cost for clearances...please give your receipts to Karen Mohn.

Keep the Date...

The juniors will be having a Knoebel's Day on June 16. We have reserved Pavilion D. We will be having some food at the Pavilion during the day. Details will be in the next Echo.

Hoss's

Thanks for supporting the Juniors by eating out at Hoss's! The fundraiser brought in \$303.29. The next day at Hoss's will be in June...stay tuned!

Thank-You to Fleetwood Grange for allowing the Juniors the use of your grange hall for the sleepover. A lot of fun was had by those in attendance!

Thanks to all that supported the Wolfgang fundraiser. The products will be delivered at the March 7th Pomona meeting.

Road Rally...Interested? Details are not available at the time of this writing, but the juniors are planning on sponsoring a Road Rally fundraiser on Sunday, April 26, 2009. If you are interested, please let one of the leaders know!!

Did you Know?

The juniors use recycled CDs (music or computer) for craft projects. If you have any to pass onto the juniors, please bring them to the county grange meeting in March or any other Pomona meeting this year! Thank you!

HAMBURG GRANGE

The Hamburg Grange is holding an "All You Can Eat Chicken Pot Pie Dinner" on Saturday, February 21, 2009 (snow date February 28, 2009) from 4-7PM at the Hamburg High School, which is located on Windsor Street. Tickets are \$7.00 for Adults, \$4.50 for children 3-8, 2 and under Free. Takeout is available. Bake Sale. Tickets are available at the door, from any Grange member, or you can call Michael Adams @ 610-562-5933.

JUNIOR GRANGE PRINCESS

Hi!

I am Lindsay Schroeder! I am your Berks County Jr. Grange Princess. I have been having so much fun this year with princess. It is exciting to go to different Junior Granges!

I am currently 13 years old and in 8th grade. I have two brothers and two sisters. My parents are Monte and Becky Schroeder.

Berks Heim was the very first event I participated in. We went to the dining hall and handed out center pieces that we made at our county camp. The theme was "sea creatures gone wild", and the center pieces were filled with fish. I enjoyed visiting Berks Heim and seeing all the patients smile. At the very end we handed out strawberry short cake. We even enjoyed some ourselves.

One of my other events were the fairs. I went to the Reading Fair and Kutztown Fair. There I handed out ribbons to all the winners of the contest participants. They had judging in dairy, beef, sheep, goats and lots more animals.

Throughout the year I am having a blast. I will miss giving up my title.

I hope the next princess will have fun just like I did!



The Berks County Farm Service Agency is looking to nominate an advisor for their county committee. The advisor is an individual with farming background and interest that will represent the diverse viewpoints of minorities and women. The advisor is appointed to a county committee where minority and women producers exist but have little or no representation by county committee members.

FSA state committees officially appoint advisors who are recommended by county committees or community based organizations.

Anyone interested in further information, please contact the Berks County FSA office at 610.478.7158 ext. 2.

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Attention Youth

By Derek Schroeder

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

Since my last article, the 2008-2009 Guide to Contests and Programs has been delivered. Have you read over it? Have you found where you can use your talent? Is your talent cooking? There are many different areas to enter baking. Are you more artsy? Art, photography or woodburning may be of interest to you. Did you know that there were only two entries for the youth category of scrapbooking? If one more person had entered their book, they would have been guaranteed at least the third place prize. I would like to see more entries this year. You do not have to worry about getting an entry to session, I will take any entries to session that are entered by Berks County Youth or into one of the Youth contests.

I hope all of the youth in Berks County noticed the announcement in the November/December Advocate about the Youth Retreat. This year instead of having Youth Camp during Family Festival, there will be a special Youth Retreat in March. There are more details of the retreat in January's Advocate. Remember the Berks County Youth Department will pay for any first time attendee. The registration fee includes meals, activities, and lodging for the weekend. If there is enough interest in attending the retreat, the department will also provide transportation to and from the retreat. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in attending, so that you can be pre-registered for the event and pay your fee. The deadline for registration is February 20th.

We have a Haus night coming up at Shartlesville Grange after the March 7th Pomona. The details are the same as always. The Haus Tournament starts at 7:30 PM and light refreshments will be available for purchase. If you do not play Haus, feel free to bring another game and some friends, the night is just as fun with another game.

In addition I haven't gotten any input from anyone in regards to ideas to get things rolling for the Youth in Berks County. Would you like to have more card nights or some other kind of game tournament? How about workshops to help you get started on a State Session entry? Please email me (darryll629@hotmail.com) or send me a message on Facebook with your ideas and suggestions.

CONSIGNMENT SALE

By Feryl Treichler

2009 is here and it is time to think Pomona Sale.

Each Grange member can become involved as there is so much work to be done. Please offer your talent in one form or another.

As the work detail sheets get passed at your Grange, do not hesitate to sign up. Bring a friend along to show them what Grange activity is all about. They might want to join our organization.

Please mark your calendar now for future meetings and work sessions as the big day is August 23, 2009!

2009 BERKS COUNTY GRANGE TRIP Itinerary Outline

DATES: June 8 thru June 14, 2009

DESTINATIONS: Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky

Sites and Attractions:

- Diving Route 81 thru Skyline area and stopping at Natural Bridge
- Continue Route 81 to Asheville, NC and tour the Biltmore Estate
- Travel to Gatlinburg, TN in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, end in Knoxville, TN
- Travel to Nashville, TN and have a dinner/show/river cruise on the General Jackson
 - An evening show at the Grand Ole Opry
 - Depart Nashville and go to Mammoth Cave National Park via Route 65, ending in Lexington, KY
 - Tour the Kentucky Horse Park
- Stop at Flight #93 Memorial in Somerset, PA
- All 3 diamond rated hotels.
- Transportation - Klein's Bus Service



INCLUDED WITH TRIP:

Admissions to Natural Bridge, Biltmore Estate, General Jackson river cruise, Grand Ole Opry, Kentucky Horse Park, six (6) nights lodging, Continental breakfasts at hotels, bus driver's tip.

NOT INCLUDED WITH COST:

7 Lunches and 6 evening meals (locations will be made for evening meals).



COST OF TRIP PER PERSON: \$840.00

DEPOSIT OF \$250/PERSON REQUIRED WITH RESERVATION

RESERVATION WITH FINAL PAYMENT: May 1, 2009

Reservations open to non-members after March 7, 2009

RESERVATIONS:

Interested parties must call AAA Reading-Berks directly and contact Barbara Reeser at 610-374-4531, extension 7242. All reservations will be handled through AAA Reading-Berks.

There is a 46-passenger bus limit for this trip. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first served reservation basis with deposits made to AAA Reading-Berks.

Thanking you ahead of time for your participation and we look forward to another successful Berks County Grange trip in 2009.

Your Tour Committee,

Marie & Richard Schaeffer - 610-562-8362

Esther & William Stitzel - 610-562-8507

Frances & Ray Davis - 610-926-3548

Ruth & Lloyd McQuate - 610-693-6206

Joyce & Paul Zerbe - 610-488-6752

Nettie & Irvin Kauffman - 610-926-5389

POMONA GO-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY

Sunday, April 26, 2009

St. Michael's Church, 10:15 a.m.

FOOD SAFETY COURSES

There will be two PA Food Safety Courses for non-profit organizations held at the Gouglersville Grange—February 26, 2009 at 6 p.m. and Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 6 p.m. Any non-profit organization is invited. Please call Sue Eshelman at 610-777-8794.



WERNERSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

By Elaine & Art Gordon
Charles & Mary Ruth Lauck
Ada Peters

We would like to extend our THANKS to the following for their contributions to make the Wernersville State Hospital Christmas a “merry” one for the residents.

Pomona Family Activity	\$200
Pomona	\$300
Alleghenyville	\$ 50
Bernville	\$ 25
Fleetwood	\$ 50
Geigertown	\$ 75
Gouglersville	\$100
Hamburg	\$ 50
Kutztown	\$ 50
Marion	\$ 25
Ontelaunee	\$ 25
Pioneer	\$ 25
Shartlesville	\$ 50
Virginville	\$100

Total \$1125

The gift list included: shirts, caps, gloves, socks, t-shirts, slippers, sweaters, pull over shirts, vests, sweatshirts, night gowns, Christmas paper, gift labels and alarm clocks. It totaled 202 gift items!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

by Laura Wike

Happy New Year to everyone! Pre Pomona meeting will be held at Fleetwood Grange. Pomona will be hosted by Fleetwood and assisted by Shartlesville. It's never too early to start working on your projects. Check out the changes in your Advocate and also see what is new this year.

I will be stepping down from F.A. Director and we are looking for someone to take over. If interested, please contact myself or Mike Adams and we will let you know what it all involves.

I have truly enjoyed working with all of you on all projects. We have a good group of hard working people. Please help your new leader as much as possible.

DID YOU KNOW?

.... Laura Wike was awarded the Pomona Director of the Year at the 2008 State Session. Way to go Laura!

.... Karen Mohn is the new Junior Grange Director. Congratulations Karen and your family for this BIG honor. Your dedication to the Juniors bestows you this prestigious position.

.... Brittany Haag and Ashley Mohn (both Marion Grange Juniors) received Super JG trophies at National Grange Session!!!! The only two from Pennsylvania and only ten given throughout the nation.

.... Derek Schroeder and Barbara Heffner are now Mr. & Mrs.—another marriage through Grange membership!

.... Maude Schaeffer, Kutztown Grange, turned 98 on February 5. Congratulations and a belated “Happy Birthday”.

.... That soldiers on US bases can use coupons up to 6 months after they expire? Did you know that Hamburg Grange is collecting coupons and sending them to troops? Do you know how many expired coupons YOU throw away in a month? If you are interested in helping the Hamburg Grange with this project, please collect your expired clipped coupons and give them to any Hamburg Granger.

.... Gail Switzer participated in Horizon Leadership program sponsored by National Grange at National Session in November. She was also chosen as a 2009 Youth Mentor. As mentors, Gail will assist the National Grange Youth Department in organizing next year's National Grange Session Youth Days and promoting Grange Youth programming.

.... Andrew Kieffer served as Assistant Steward for the National Youth Officer team at National Session in November. Andrew also coordinated and lead the drill for the team.