

# Ringler Gives Farewell Address

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culture regional director. He has been a member of the Grange for 50 years and is currently a member of Bottle Run Grange.

During his time in the Grange he has held a number of positions, including master of West Branch Grange in Lycoming County, master of Shermanata Grange in Perry County, member of the State Grange executive committee, and coordinator of the State Grange leadership/membership program.

Outside of the Grange Hiller has been director and chairman of the Lycoming County Conservation District, chairman of the Old Lycoming Township Planning Commission. Currently he serves as a lay leader of Heshbon United Methodist Church, and as a member of the Williamsport Kiwanis and Montoursville Masonic Lodge.

Other offices were also elected at this year's state session. William Steel, Beaver County, was elected overseer (vice president). In the Grange, Steel has held most Subordinate Grange positions, and is past master of Beaver County Pomona Grange. From 1969-1981 he served at the national level as Youth and Young Marrieds director. He is currently master of Big Knob Grange 2008.

Steel, an insurance agent, and his wife Mary-Lee have three

boys and reside in New Sewickley Township.

## Grange Honors Members

Members of the Pennsylvania State Grange took a break from the business of their annual convention Tuesday to honor one of their own.

Ruth E. Osborne, Perryopolis, Pa., was named "Granger of the Year", at the Scottish Rite Consistory during the All-Granger Banquet. Osborne was honored with a plaque for her dedication to both the Grange and the community. This award is one of the highest honors bestowed upon members.

The presentation was part of the State Session where more than 500 delegates gather to discuss and vote on resolutions concerning rural and agricultural issues which will direct Grange policy for years to come.

Osborne is ending her six-year reign as Flora for State Grange. In addition to other offices held in the Grange, she is also active in Eastern Star, White Shrine, Redstone United Methodist Parish, and the Brownsville Historical Society. Offices that Osborne has held include Grand Warder of Pennsylvania in Eastern Star, Watchman of Shepherds in White Shrine, and president of United Methodist Women.

Also honored at the banquet was Rep. Sam Hayes (R - 81st



Amy Marshall, 1992-93 Female Youth Ambassador.



Joel Straub, 1992-93 Male Youth Ambassador.

District) for his years of service to the agriculture community. Hayes will be retiring at the end of this legislative session.



Senator Roger Madigan presents a proclamation to Bill Ringler on his retirement as state master.



Becky Michalka, Women's Activities director, presents Mrs. Mildred Ringler with the first copy of the new Pennsylvania State Grange Cookbook.

# Mifflin County Farmers' Association Holds Meeting

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Mifflin Co. Correspondent

LEWISTOWN (Mifflin Co.) — The Mifflin County Farmers' Association (MCFA) annual meeting was held recently at the McVeytown Fire Hall.

After award presentations, members and guests heard the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association's (PFA) new administrative secretary, Lou Sallie, speak on the direction of PFA and goals for the organization.

The new Nationwide Insurance Program was addressed by PFA's Hadley Brown, and members voted on policy recommendations. With newly elected directors, the board then elected officers.

Sallie, in addressing the group of 60 people, took time to describe the challenges PFA faces, his role, the role of the staff, and the importance of county level membership and leadership.

"We have a challenge in this

organization, and that challenge is to get more people involved. The issues today are more serious than they've ever been," Sallie said.

His emphasis is growth and positive action at the county level. "We're only successful to the extent that our members are involved.

"PFA is not the administration, it's not the state board, not the staff in Camp Hill. PFA will do, PFA will succeed, and PFA will grow to the extent that its members want it to," he said.

Sallie said the staff's role is to keep the counties better organized, better informed, and more able to be active and vocal. "Our focus at the staff level is to be closer to the counties, to better communicate with the counties, to work harder to help them to be more organized, to help them be ready to do a better job."

According to Sallie, PFA's board of directors set up a long-



Standing to serve as directors of the Mifflin County Farmers' Association are, front row, Pauline Gilck, Audrey Gay Rodgers, and Glenn Martin, and (back row) Larry Goss, Mike Goss, Dave Stuck, Stan Dunk, Joe Laughlin, and Dave Esh. Stan Dunk was elected to serve as president.

range planning team of members from across the state. By dividing into areas such as membership and programs, they took an in-depth look into trends within the organization. They checked data from five years back, then charted the next five years should those same trends continue.

They also conducted several "speak out" meetings across Pennsylvania for the members at large. The long-range planning team, after gathering this information, outlined 750 ideas for change for the board of directors.

The board then wrote goals and objectives. They developed 150 objectives which clearly define ways to reach the stated goals. The staff now is in the process of writing action plans to carry out the objectives.

"The most important thing is that members and leaders, and the board of directors were involved in taking a look at that and charting the course of the organization," Sallie said.

Sallie said there are more than four million members in the American Farm Bureau Federation, and his job is to get closer to those members in Pennsylvania who set policy and provide leadership.

Hadley Brown, in speaking of the PFA and Nationwide partnership, said Nationwide began as Ohio Farm Bureau Insurance in 1926, and then added Maryland Farm Bureau Insurance in 1928. After forming the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Insurance Company in the 1940s, it was renamed Nationwide in 1953.

Brown said the link with PFA now is Nationwide's chance to form agricultural ties again. Nationwide hopes to help PFA increase membership by providing insurance tailored to their members and their business needs, and have developed and are developing programs just for PFA members.

Members then discussed, voted, and adopted the following policy

recommendations:

1. We support the recycling of residential septage on farmland according to the current DER guidelines.

2. We recommend that a market should be established for recyclable material before recycling is mandated upon local municipalities.

3. We recommend that the extension service and/or the votech school teach a farm safety course for 13-, 14-, and 15-year-old youths to meet legal requirements for farm employment.

4. We recommend attendance by Mifflin County School students to the Pennsylvania Farm Show be legally excused.

5. We recommend that PFA and the PFA State Dairy Committee continue to monitor and collect data for use in preparing testimony for over-order pricing of milk.

6. We recommend that the Game Commission accept full responsibility for all damages

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Administrative secretary of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, Lou Sallie, addressed the annual meeting of the Mifflin County Farmers' Association along with Hadley Brown who spoke on the new Nationwide Insurance Program with PFA.