



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXII NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MARCH-APRIL 2016

## APRIL, 2016 — GRANGE MONTH — CELEBRATE!!

### OPEN HOUSE!

Open your doors!

Let the community in for a special Program, informational forum on a local issue, etc.

Maybe a special dinner to help those that need a good meal!

### DISPLAYS!

Business windows  
Grange hall  
Booth at local event

### AWARDS!

Great time to give membership awards!  
Give a Community Citizen Award  
Honor those that work hard for your Grange! VIP!  
Honor a Dedicated Worker from your Community.  
Honor your local Police, Fire, Teacher,  
Everyone likes to be honored for the work they do!



### ASK

Your friends!

### ASK

What their interests Are!

And don't forget to....

### ASK

them to join  
The Grange!

ASK anyone 1-100+



### PARTY TIME!

Invite non-members, family members, neighbors, anyone in your area to a night of games, movies, snacks, and just good old fashioned **FUN!**



### ADVERTISE THE GRANGE!

Write a special article for the newspaper  
Tell some of the history  
Put bits and pieces of Grange information on Facebook!  
Make a plea for new members!  
Advertise your events!  
**Get the name of the Grange out!**

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# Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

Periodical postage paid at Durand, MI  
Michigan Grange News is published bi-monthly for the members of the Michigan State Grange.

Inquiries contact: Michigan State Grange  
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Christopher D. Johnston

**Postmaster send address changes:**  
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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

- March 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins "Yawn"**
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day The luck of the Irish!**
- March 20 First Day of Spring! YAY!!!!**
- March 27 Easter! Here Comes Peter Cottontail!**
- April 1 April Fools Day! Be Careful!**



Whole page	\$150.00
1/2 page	\$90.00
1/4 page / business card	\$50.00
\$40.00	

The above rates include advertising space for two months.

Prices effective June, 1997. Payable in advance, check should be made to Michigan State Grange. Please include camera-ready copy. Copy to be received no later than the 15th of the month preceding date of insertion. Advertisements for alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Michigan State Grange reserves the right to refuse copy. Discounts available on multiple insertions.

6 issues per year, bi-monthly  
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## Chaplain

## Blessings

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Well, I am sitting here in my office with my heater going and thanking God that I finally have heat and lights. The snow drifts come just to my knees and it is cold outside but I know that God in all of his wisdom wanted me to learn a lesson. Don't count on earthly things. Count on me in your time trouble, sadness, happiness and joyful gatherings. All things are possible with him would leads us.

I had to remember that during the snow storm on Wednesday when I was in the ER with our daughter Frances. As I watched her in pain I knew that she was in God's hands and that whatever came of the testing they were doing we would get through it. Frances was in God's hands and after a quick surgery she is fine and without that painful kidney stone.

I sometimes wonder about what is going on in this world. The water problem in Flint, the next election for a new President and the meanness that they are spreading, the killing that is going on all over the U.S. I have had friends as young as 25 and as old as 103 die this past couple of weeks. Friends who are having health problems. And then I look at myself. I have had complete healing this month with my cancer and my family is safe and sound. My husband has had complete healing with his broken shoulder blade. I wonder why kids as affected with the water problem, why did my friend die at 25. Why is my neighbor having a triple by-pass. And then I remember who I am following. He has a plan even if I don't know what it is and he knows when it will all happen. I just need to remember that sometime when I am resting at his feet he will explain why.

Count your blessing, be there for those who don't and remember God loves you.

I love you and there is nothing you can do about it. Pass it on.

### REQUEST

**Sister Darlene VanZuilen**, Past Michigan State Grange Lecturer has moved to an assisted living facility and would like to hear from some of her longtime friends. Maybe a card or note now and then will keep her spirits up and keep her that cheerful person she has always been.

**Her address is:**  
**Enlivant Masonville Place**  
**150 Northshore Drive**  
**Coldwater, MI 49036**

### New Contact Information for NG Lecturer

**Amanda Leigh Brozana**  
**201 Lakeside Drive Apt. T-3**  
**Greenbelt, MD 20770**  
**Phone: 301-943-1090**  
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**April is Grange Month**

During the month of April, as we should throughout the year, we join Granges across the country in celebrating us. While we spend the majority of the year doing the work of the organization in educating about the advancements in agriculture and promoting all our good works locally and nationally. However, during the month of April we spend a little time educating the country about us, lets invite the community into our halls and celebrate all of our accomplishments.

As we take time to recognize our community citizen of the year, let me remind you of the National Program to recognize a Police officer of the year, a Firefighter of the year, and a teacher of the year. The winners of this award will be recognized at the National Grange Convention in November.

**Great Lakes Grange Leaders Conference**

Also during the month of April is the Great Lakes Grange Leaders conference in Indiana. During this conference there will be many Grangers doing workshops covering many different Grange programs and procedures. For more information, contact Michigan State Grange Lecturer Sharon Popler.

**Officers**

As you will be receiving a letter, if you have not already, asking for you to inform the State Grange office by June if you are not intending to seek re-election to your current office. This is per a directive in the back of the Michigan State Grange By-Laws.

**Directors**

As I will not be seeking Re-Election to the position of Master of the Michigan State Grange, this is your notice that unless you are asked to continue with the position you currently have by the next state Master your term is up at the end of the annual session in October.

**Writing Resolutions**

Any time throughout the year we can write resolutions to be considered at our Annual Convention. Grange policy is developed and it all begins in the local Granges.

Taken from a brochure that the National Grange printed several years ago it says: One of the basic precepts of the Grange is its adherence to “grass roots” policy development.

**The Parts of a Resolution:**

- ◆ Each resolution is numbered
- ◆ Clear, concise title
- ◆ Start the problem in this paragraph. Do Not express opinions—only supportable facts. Note use of “WHEREAS,” (capitalized) and semicolon followed by “and” at end of paragraph.
- ◆ This states a fact (not opinion that causes the problem. Each fact (there may be several) is a separate paragraph. Note use of semi-colon followed by “therefore be it.”
- ◆ The RESOLVED states the action you wish to take. If there is more than one solution, tie them together with “and be it further resolved” using punctuation as before. Properly written, this section can stand along — it will relate to the problem and action desired to correct it.

**Sample Resolution (Just a sample)**

Resolution No. 1  
 USDA FUNDS  
 WHEREAS, funds appropriated to USDA often give the impression to many people not associated with farming that these funds go directly to the farmer for his personal use; and  
 WHEREAS, many public programs such as school lunch, forest service, meat inspection and food stamps are federal programs funded by USDA; therefore be it  
 RESOLVED, that the Grange urge that USDA programs be separated and listed as to amount of money received and all other means be used to promote a clearer understanding between consumers and farmers concerning USDA appropriations.

**We have one resolution already this year...let's work to make it many more!**

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315  
Tel: 616-262-3516 E-mail: plswainston1@gmail.com

**Deafness and Hearing Loss**

**Key facts**

- 360 million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss.
- Hearing loss may result from genetic causes, complications at birth, certain infectious diseases, chronic ear infections, the use of particular drugs, exposure to excessive noise and ageing.
- Half of all cases of hearing loss are avoidable through primary prevention.
- People with hearing loss can benefit from hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive devices; captioning and sign language; and other forms of educational and social support.
- Current production of hearing aids meets less than 10% of global need.

Over 5% of the world’s population – 360 million people – has disabling hearing loss (328 million adults and 32 million children). Disabling hearing loss refers to hearing loss greater than 40 decibels (dB) in the better hearing ear in adults and a hearing loss greater than 30 dB in the better hearing ear in children. The majority of people with disabling hearing loss live in low- and middle-income countries.

Approximately one-third of people over 65 years of age are affected by disabling hearing loss. The prevalence in this age group is greatest in South Asia, Asia Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa.

**Hearing Loss and Deafness**

A person who is not able to hear as well as someone with normal hearing – hearing thresholds of 25 dB or better in both ears – is said to have hearing loss. Hearing loss may be mild, moderate, severe or profound. It can affect one ear or both ears, and leads to difficulty in hearing conversational speech or loud sounds.

‘Hard of hearing’ refers to people with hearing loss ranging from mild to severe. They usually communicate through spoken language and can benefit from hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive devices as well as captioning. People with more significant hearing losses may benefit from cochlear implants. ‘Deaf’ people mostly have profound hearing loss, which implies very little or no hearing. They often use sign language for communication.

**Causes of Hearing Loss and Deafness**

The causes of hearing loss and deafness can be divided into congenital causes and acquired causes.

**Congenital causes**

Congenital causes may lead to hearing loss being present at or acquired soon after birth. Hearing loss can be caused by heredi-

tary and non-hereditary genetic factors or by certain complications during pregnancy and childbirth, including:

- providing technical support to Member States in development and implementation of national plans for hearing care;
- providing technical resources and guidance for training of health-care workers on hearing care;
- developing and disseminating recommendations to address the major preventable causes of hearing loss;
- undertaking advocacy to raise awareness about the prevalence, causes and impact of hearing loss as well as opportunities for prevention, identification and management;
- developing and disseminating evidence-based tools for effective advocacy;
- building partnerships to develop strong hearing care programs, including initiatives for affordable hearing aids, cochlear implants and services;
- collating data on deafness and hearing loss to demonstrate the scale and the impact of the problem; and
- promoting social inclusion of people with disabilities, including people with hearing loss and deafness, for example, through community-based rehabilitation networks and programs.

**A story by a deaf Child**

Denise — Denise is a student at a private high school. This is a story she wrote when she was in the 5th grade.

September 11, 1997

**The Pleasure of Living in a Quiet World—But Still Communicating with Others.**

I was born deaf so I do not hear noise, many sounds or talking. I do not know what it’s like to be hearing, but I know what it’s like to be deaf. It is nice to live in a quiet world. When I use my hearing aids, the noise bothers my ears. The cafeteria is the loudest place at school. Sometimes I turn off my hearing aids. I am lucky that I can stop the noise!

Deaf kids can do many things but sometimes we must work harder like when we learn to talk and read lips. To help myself, I go to the speech room to learn how to talk. Mrs. Johnson teaches me how to make sounds the right way. I practice a lot so I can talk to people with my voice and understand people who don’t know sign language.

Many deaf people use sign language to communicate to each other and to hearing people who know sign language too. Sign language is as easy for me to talk to my family as speech is for hearing people. My dad and my brother need to learn more sign language, but they try their best. Some deaf kids live with families who do not know sign language. I think it is fun to be deaf when other people communicate with me.

## National Grange Visa Platinum Credit Card Termination

UMB Bank will be terminating the National Grange Visa Platinum credit card program effective May 1, 2016.

What does this mean to Grange cardholders?

Cardholders will continue to be serviced in the same way that they always have been. This Spring, around the program termination date, each cardholder will receive a letter notifying them the card program that they are currently participating in is ending and they are being transferred to a UMB branded card. The letter will outline any changes to their program and rewards program. Cardholders are directed to contact the call center with any questions. Of course they will also have the option to close their account with the call center directly or using traditional channels should they choose to do so.

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## Grange Happenings for the Michigan Grange News

We are always welcoming articles from the Subordinate or Pomona or Junior Granges in Michigan to share with all of our readers.

Please send in a picture or article or both for us to share!

Send them to either [msgrange1873@yahoo.com](mailto:msgrange1873@yahoo.com) or to 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429.

It's great to hear what others are doing in their communities.

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## Famous Quotes:

- ◆ People may fail many times, but they become failures only when they begin to blame someone else.
- ◆ Angels have no boundaries but are willing to respect yours.
- ◆ Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.
- ◆ Neglecting valuable advice, an ignorant man becomes the cause of his own misery.
- ◆ The Ten Commandments are not multiple choice.
- ◆ "My way is the highway." God
- ◆ It's impossible to have too much fun.
- ◆ "My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." Henry Ford
- ◆ Happiness isn't getting what you want, but experiencing who you are.

# ATTENTION ALL SUBORDINATE SECRETARIES

I am requesting (mandatory) a COMPLETE list of all your present members. This should be at the end of December 2015 when you sent your last quarterly report. Your list should coincide with the number of members you have on line 11 of that report. Anyone you have dropped or taken in since then will be reported on your next (March) quarterly report.

Over the last year or so, one of our "old" computers totally lost our membership list. Luckily, we had in the year previous to that copied that list into the "newer" computer. However, since I was not and still am not familiar with that program, it was not kept up to date like it should have been. I have struggled over the last year with the list and bringing it up to date the best I can. I know in my heart and mind that its not correct, by any means.

As the Secretary of your Grange, you are responsible to keep a complete and correct list of your members. So now I am asking for a copy of that list.

A few years ago we established a list of email addresses for those that wished to have their Michigan Grange News sent to them in that form. We are not insisting that they do, but I can tell you that those that get it in that form like it so much better. Pictures are in color, everything is clearer and it makes for a great issue. When copied it loses a lot.

NOW.... When sending that list of members, I will **NEED** full names (each member), addresses, (house numbers, street names, city, state, zip) and emails if you have them and **PLEASE** mark it if they are to be getting their MGN by email.

When you send in your quarterly report forms, please make a note if someone's address or email has changed. When we get them back, due to non sufficient address or moved, we have to pay .59 each time. That adds up in a hurry.

I would like to have a list from ALL twenty-nine of our Subordinate Grange Secretaries by March 31, 2016.

Thank you! Peggy Johnston, MSG Sec.

So far, I think we've faired this winter pretty well. I'm sure everyone is anxious for spring to come in full force!! Thinking of gardens and flowers, planning vacations, yearly gatherings and just being able to get outside and feel the warmth!!! I sure am.

There is still time to register for the Great Lakes Grange Leadership Conference. (second week of March ) Contact me for the information if you wish to go.

**Remember April is Grange Month, try to celebrate with some special event!**

**Start working on your Distinguished Grange requirements!!!!**

**Have a GREAT time doing it.**



## 21 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT YOUR HEART

1. The more education you have about the heart you lower the risk of heart disease.
2. A normal heart valve is about the size of a half dollar.
3. The first heart pacemakers were plugged into a wall socket.
4. Happiness and a strong sense of emotional vitality helps lower your risk of heart disease.
5. The number of heart attacks PEAKS on Christmas Day, followed by the day After Christmas, and New Years Day.
6. The first heart beat starts as early as 4 weeks of conception.
7. The first study showing benefits of a vegetarian diet appears in the Bible's book of Daniel.
8. The Blue Whale has the largest heart weighing 1,500 pounds.
9. Modest prompted the invention of the Stethoscope. Before it existed, Doctors had to press their ear to a patients chest.
10. Heart disease has been found in 3,000 year old mummies.
11. Your heart is about the size of your 2 hands clasped together.
12. Your heart beats 100,000 times a day.
13. Regular exercise is the single most important key to heart health, and it's FREE.
14. Heart disease is your greatest health threat (greater than breast cancer in women and prostate cancer in men).
15. The beating sound is the clap of valve leaflets opening and closing.
16. Each minute your heart pumps 1.5 gallons of blood.
17. Your heart is a coordinated machine. The right side pumps blood into your lungs, while the left side pumps it back into the body.
18. Celebrities who've had open heart surgery in recent years are: Bill Clinton, David Letterman, Barbara Walters, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Regis Philbin.
19. You can control your heart health through diet, exercise and managing stress.
20. Heart cancer is very rare, because heart cells stop dividing early in life
21. A women's average heart beats faster than a man's by almost 8 beats a minute.

Information from an article from Cleveland Heart Clinic ( 21 years heart research )...



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Hopefully spring will have arrived by the time you are reading this Michigan Grange News. At the time of this writing, we are expecting over 10 inches of snow!

Helen and I would like to encourage granges to nominate a person in their community for the Dedicated Worker Award and a grange member for The VIP – Very Important Patron Award. Both of these awards has importance to the granges presenting the award.

The purpose of the Dedicated Worker Award is to honor someone who has made a difference in the community. Giving public recognition to those who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying “Thank You” for a job well done. Though this award will no longer be judged on the state level, we strongly encourage granges to honor someone in their community. We encourage granges to submit their award winner for others to view at the Michigan State Grange session.

The purpose of The VIP – Very Important Patron Award is for granges to nominate a member who has made an outstanding contribution to their Grange in the past year. Only one entry from your Grange may be submitted to the State Grange per year. Submit a biography and a summary of the contributions your VIP has made to your Grange. If possible, also submit a photograph of your VIP. Your submission should be sent to the Community Service Director by September 10th. This will be judged and an award presented at the Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange.

We hope granges are busy planning projects for the Community Service Program. If you have new projects and would like to share them with other granges, please send them to me. I will gladly put them in a future article.

Remember – Granges that have active members and the help of non-members in their community service projects are getting their name out in the community. This is very positive and cheap advertising for the grange!

Wishing you a happy spring!

## Legislators Need to Hear From You to Protect Great Lakes Fisheries

### New Legislation Introduced to Ban Fish Farms in the Great Lakes

New legislation has been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives by Rep. Jon Bumstead (R-Newago) to ban commercial net-pen fish farms in the Great Lakes, which poses disease, escapement, and effluent risks to Great Lakes fisheries. House Bill 5255 would ban commercial cage culture operations from Michigan-controlled waters of the Great Lakes.

“This is just common sense,” said Bumstead. “The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion sport fishery. Why would the state authorize an unnecessary risk to the Great Lakes economy? This legislation will ensure that it doesn’t.”

This legislation comes in the midst of competing legislation to specifically authorize commercial net-pen fish farms – also called cage culture – in the Great Lakes following two proposals for siting in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

“Commercial cage culture poses serious risks to wild fisheries,” said Dr. Bryan Burroughs, executive director of the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited. “These risks include escapement and breeding with wild fish, making them less genetically fit to survive in the wild, passing disease from immune domestic fish to wild fish which are not immune to the diseases, and, especially, the effluent deposited by concentrated populations of domestic fish into lakes.”

A panel assembled by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources reviewed the possibility of commercial cage culture in the Great Lakes and determined, among other findings, that it is not technologically possible for the commercial net pens to capture the concentrated fish waste that would be emitted into the lakes.

“The \$7 billion sport-fishing industry supports more than 600 direct charter fishing jobs in Michigan, in addition to the thousands in tourism, service and retail which rely upon it,” said Dennis Eade of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen’s Association.

“Our members are rightfully concerned about this,” said Dan Eichinger, executive director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs. “It is our responsibility to protect the fisheries of the Great Lakes.”

**This information was provided in a press release from the M.U.C.C.**

It's time to start thinking Spring!! When the snow is gone and all the plants are starting to grow again. That's also the theme of the National Junior Grange. "Junior Grange Growing Across the Nation." So let's work on growing Michigan's Junior Grange membership. Invite friends, children of friends and anyone to a Grange meeting with a focus on Juniors. If you don't have a Junior Grange, then Junior Grange 1+ program is for you! It allows any child from 5-14 to be a Junior Grange member within your Grange. The idea is to add (+) more Junior members and you might be surprised to find that you have a full Junior Grange to charter!! So as the snow melts, now's the time to get to work!

The National Junior Grange is promoting **Health and Community Service Project in April**. Every year the American Heart Association does a "Jump-A-Thon for Healthy Hearts." This is a project of the American Heart Association does every year (I know my boys participate at their school). With having the Junior Grange participate by holding a Jump-A-Thon has two purposes. One to promote heart health and second is a community service project to raise funds to donate to your local chapter of the American Heart Association. This information comes from the National Junior Grange Director:

Categories:

**Category I: Individual Jump-ropers** – Ask for sponsors to make a donation for each jump completed during the event.

**Category II: Team Jump-roping** – Create teams to develop routines; double-dutch; single rope; Ask for sponsors to make a donation for each jump completed or routine completed.

**Category III: Tournament Jump-off** – Create a bracketed tournament Jump-Off for different age groups.

Activities:

The American Heart Association website has resources to teach heart-healthy concepts to the participants so they understand the benefits of jumping rope and being active. Use some of these during your Junior Grange meetings.

Have Junior Grangers set weekly goals to improve their skills

Measure time spent on practice before the event.

Encourage each other to meet goals (including leaders!!!)

Invite competitive jump rope teams to demonstrate skills and do a workshop with the Junior Grangers.

Community Service:

Have the Junior Grangers and leaders keep track of the time they spend on practice between now and your event.

On the day of the event, have the children and leaders sign in and then total their practice time plus the time they are at the event.

Send the total number of hours and photos of the event to the National Junior Director

Report the total amount of funds donated to the American Heart Association to the National Junior Director

Publicity and Funds Raised:

Please donate any funds collected directly to your local American Heart Association Chapter

Invite representatives from the AHA to attend your event

Invite the local press to cover your event.

**Leader Suggestions:**

Work with the Junior Grangers to understand and choose nutritional snacks and develop healthy habits during the year.

Have nutritional snacks available during the event

Set an example by sharing your own goals with the Junior Grangers.

This event can be as large or small as you would like. I love to hear that all the Granges in Michigan participated! What a great project for a little amount of work. I also encourage you to check out more information on the American Heart Association website.



I recently received the Washington State Grange News and read an article by the Shavanna Burlingame, Membership Director that I thought was fitting for our state as well and I am sure many others. I asked permission of the Director to use her article which she graciously gave me. Here it is:

### Is your Grange ready for new members?

When I ask people if they want new members, all hands go up. Of course we want new members. Who doesn't want more people, more ideas and more workers. The real question is, are you ready?

If you know company is coming and you are about to meet some new family members that might be coming along, what do you do? You clean house of course, you put out your best china and decorate your house and make sure everyone is dressed for the occasion. You also probably tell your children or your spouse how to behave — right? We want to make sure we are on our best behavior right?

In the same manner, we need to look around our Grange house. Do we have issues that need to be resolved? Is your Grange open to new ideas, new ways of doing things, questions about how things are done and why they are done that particular way? Most importantly, is there room within your member's hearts and is it a happy Grange home where people want to come and hang out?

I know that in every family, certainly mine and in our Grange Families as well we have a **“Negative Nelly, a Grumpy Gus or a Debbie Downer.”** We all have bad days where we might be one of those but it is important that we address issues as they come along. However, not many people are comfortable with confronting bad behavior or rudeness in another adult. So for those of you who are willing to lovingly confront someone, I offer a few “conflict resolution” tips.

1. Always address someone in “love”. You're not a parent confronting a child you are a peer speaking to another peer.
2. Make sure your tone and body language is non-threatening. Keep your voice low and your hands down (that may be hard for some of us who gesture with our hands).
3. Remember that everyone has feelings and don't use personal attacks. *Cont'd on page 10*



### Fredonia Grange #1713 Distributes Dictionaries

“Words for Thirds” In October, 2015 Fredonia Grange #1713 delivered over 500 dictionaries to third graders, in Marshall (Gordon, Hughes, Walters), Homer, Tekonsha, Bellevue, Springport, Albion, MarLee, Marshall Academy, Doris Klaussen Developmental Center in Battle Creek, and to four Home School Students.

The Fredonia Grange Members are looking forward to doing this again in 2016.

We start out by raising money for the dictionaries by having a corned beef and cabbage St. Patrick's Dinner Potluck in March with an auction to follow, of donated items from Fredonia Grange Members.

The Teachers in all of the schools make the time very special when we deliver the dictionaries to the Students.

The Students are excited in receiving their very own dictionary, because it has their name, and the School, and the Teachers name in the front of each dictionary.

*Submitted by: Margaret Taylor, Fredonia Grange*

### “ WORDS FOR THIRDS” DICTIONARY PROJECT

Let's get a total count on how many dictionaries were distributed to students for the 2015-2016 school year.

So far I know that Burns gave out 994, Studley 126, Fredonia 500.

Sent me an email or give me a call and let me know how many your Grange gave out.

989-288-4546 or msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120  
 Tel: 269-684-3870 E-mail: Kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

Is it Spring yet?!! I know it is around the corner just by looking at what is coming in my mailbox lately. Seed catalogs and Murry McMurry Hatchery catalog have been coming for the last week or more and it is only January 16<sup>th</sup>! I know I am writing this early but when you have free time you best take advantage of it. If looking at these types of catalogs do not put you in the mood for Spring I don't know what would!

For me, It is a little early to be thinking about adding more hens to my little flock but I want to be ready when the weather is right to do so. I am not set up for starting with baby chicks, so it will be at least 4 week old chicks or started pullets for this "green" chicken farmer. I have already gone to the hatchery's website and started looking at what they have to offer and started my wish list for later! So far I have been lucky for doing my daily chores during this mostly mild winter weather. That could change since we are only half way through January and we still have February and March to go! We have been getting eggs most days from our 5 hens and for the variety of hens in that 5, I would say our average of 2 to 3 eggs a day is pretty good during the winter cold. We do have a florescent light on a timer so they receive 16 hours of "sunlight" to help them with egg production. We also have a heat lamp on a thermostatically controlled outlet so it comes on when it gets to 32 degrees and turns off at 45 degrees. The water has not froze since we put a heater base under the water fount. I know they can't wait for spring so they can get outside in the fresh air and sunshine. I can't wait either so I can add a few more hens to the coop which will also give our 2 boys more girls to share. Yes, I said 2 boys... (roosters) as my youngest rooster was told to be a young hen, until one day early winter I went in to turn the light on before work (timer wasn't installed yet) and just as I flipped the switch my little hen stretched and made a funny little crow sound. Well she sure has turned into a very handsome rooster that we call Pretty Boy. The boys have gotten into fights but lately they have been fairly calm with just the older one chasing the younger one away from the feeder or away from 2 of the hens.

Well that is enough for now on my chicken farm-

ing. This is the perfect time to be planning your gardens for the coming growing season. You need to have time to decide what you want to plant so you can be ready when the ground is ready for preparing and planting in the early summer. You want to look at the different varieties of each vegetable you intend to plant. Of course you have to be careful that you don't plan too much for the size plot you have for planting. All your plants need their space and overcrowding is not a good thing in a vegetable garden. Many plants can spread out of the area that you think is enough and crowd into another area which causes problems for other plants not being allow to grow right.

Well that is it for now. Good luck with your garden planning and happy growing until later!

**BORROWED MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE CONTINUED...**

4. Go to the person and ask to speak to them in a private area.
5. Be kind and positive with your words, but let them know that what they said or did is hurtful and disrupting to others.
6. Explain that if we are going to grow in our Granges we must be open to new ideas and in our deliberations and discussions on the floor—we need to be respectful and we can all agree to disagree.
7. Work to find some common ground
8. Words are powerful and can quickly tear someone down or build someone up. They can open up the door to a heart or they can close someone off very quickly.
9. Be careful not to use accusatory words like always or never.
10. End the conversation with a positive note and tell them that you care about them and they are important to you or you wouldn't risk addressing this issue with them.
11. LISTEN...Be quick to listen and slow to speak. We must listen with our heart not our head. Listening with the heart means you are really engaged in the conversation and trying to hear what the person is really saying....listening with you head is when you're listening but all the while you are thinking of what you are going to say in rebuttal.
12. If the meeting is successful, wipe the slate clean. Never speak of it again and really let it go. Some of my best friendships were the result of conflicts that were talked out and let go.

*So let's clean our houses and get ready for company and hopefully new Grangers to enter our doors. Remember words either kill or destroy or they bring life.*

## **MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE ELECTION YEAR**

With this being a full election year, this is a good time to review what the directives are for each office. Just in case you are thinking of seeking one of these positions you will know in advance what your duties are. Please read:

### **MASTER**

It is the responsibility of the State Grange Master to see that the affairs of the Michigan State Grange are carried out in an efficient and effective manner. To this end, he/she shall:

1. Serve as presiding Officer of the Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange.
2. See that the laws and resolutions of the Michigan State Grange are carried out and enforced.
3. Serve, with spouse, as delegates to the National Grange Convention.
4. Be the supreme authority in determining Grange Law.
5. Act as spokesman for the Michigan State Grange as the need may arise.
6. Appoint persons to fulfill the duties of the Departments of the Grange and oversee their work.
7. See that Granges are maintained in efficient operating order.
8. Devise measures to extend the influence of the State Grange.
9. Be available to attend Grange functions that require his/her attendance.
10. Be thoroughly familiar with the ritual, Digest, and parliamentary procedure as it applies to the conduct of the Michigan State Grange.
11. Make arrangements for the Michigan State Grange Convention as directed by the Executive Committee.
12. Serve as Editor of the Michigan Grange News and contribute an article each issue.
13. Function as a public speaker at legislative hearings, Grange meetings, and other public events.
14. See that a Grange display is ready for use at various functions.
15. Be well informed on current events as they affect the membership and the Michigan State Grange.
16. Be in good physical and mental health.
17. There will be no living quarters at the Michigan State Grange Office Building for the State Grange Master.

### **OVERSEER**

1. Fill the Master's Station in the absence of the Master.
2. Be willing and able to fill the Office of Master until the next regular session of the Grange, should it become vacant.
3. Be willing and able to act as a member of the Executive committee and attend all their regular meetings.

### **LECTURER**

1. Prepare and send a Quarterly Lecturer's Bulletin in January, April, July, October.
2. Contribute an article for each issue of Michigan Grange News, size to be determined by the State Master.
3. In charge of workshop(s) at Great Lakes Lecturer's Conference, (or Host when in Michigan).
4. In charge of Lecturer's Department contests that are judged at State Grange Convention; make arrangements for Judges.
5. In charge of displaying all articles brought to the annual convention for judging in Lecturer's department contests.
6. Prepare Lecturer's section of Michigan State Grange Program Handbook.
7. In charge of all programs, projects, contests, that are in the Lecturer's Department.
8. Promote the Award Winners Fund in cooperation with the Youth/Young Adult Director.
9. He/she shall include in their annual report full disclosure of all money received from the Michigan State Grange and the Michigan State Grange Foundation and how it was spent.

### **STEWARD**

1. Responsible for transporting convention paraphernalia from State Grange Office to convention site and back to State Grange Office. (In our situation I would think this means hauling the State Grange Trailer to and from.)
2. Carry out necessary duties at annual convention.

### **ASSISTANT STEWARD & LADY ASSISTANT STEWARD**

1. Assist Steward with transporting of convention paraphernalia.
2. Carry out necessary duties at annual convention.

## **CHAPLAIN**

1. Be in charge of the Memorial Service at the annual convention.
2. Be prepared with prayers whenever requested, at the annual convention and other State Grange events.

## **TREASURER**

1. The Treasurer shall give a full statement of the condition of the general funds at each annual meeting.
2. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to delegate all, or a portion of, the duties of the elected Treasurer to another person if it determines it to be in the best interest of the Grange.
3. The treasurer shall keep the accounts always correct and in order for examination and the funds safely secured and ready for needed payment
4. The treasurer shall make all disbursement of funds as required upon proper documentation and authorization.

## **SECRETARY**

1. The Secretary shall make and keep complete and accurate records of all the proceedings of the meetings of the State Grange. He/she shall make all necessary returns to the National Grange, and keep the accounts of the Subordinate Granges with the State Grange.
2. The Secretary shall keep a record of all money received and deposit it in the proper State Grange Accounts.
3. He/she shall furnish the Subordinate Granges with the necessary blanks upon which to make quarterly reports of membership and dues to the State Grange, and other matters upon which information is required for the benefit of the Order.
4. He/she shall also keep and publish annually a complete register of the name and number of all Subordinate and Pomona Granges in the State, with the name and address of the Master, Lecturer, Secretary, Family Activities Chairman, Youth/Young Adults Chairman, Junior Chairman, Information Chairman, Legislative Chairman, Agriculture Chairman, Membership Chairman, Deaf Awareness Chairman, and Community Service Chairman of each, and send a copy to the Secretary of each Subordinate and Pomona Grange, on or before the first day of January of each year. He/she shall conduct the correspondence of this Grange, and perform such other duties as generally devolve upon such officer, under the direction of the Master and Executive Committee.
5. He/she shall be vigilant in the collection of all fees and dues from Subordinate Granges, as provided in the constitution and laws of the Order.
6. He/she shall have the responsibility of determining the eligibility, and notifying those Granges entitled to representation in the State Grange Convention and determine under such regulations as the By-Laws may establish the number of representatives to which each Subordinate and Pomona Grange is entitled.
7. He/she shall receive payment for all actual expenses necessitated in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities, up to the amount budgeted by the delegates at the annual session of the Michigan State Grange, all expenses to be vouchered by the Secretary, the same to be audited and approved by the Executive Committee.
8. The Secretary's records and office shall be maintained at a location mutually agreed upon by the secretary and the executive committee.
9. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to delegate all, or a portion of, the duties of the elected Secretary to another person if it determines it to be in the best interest of the Grange.

## **GATEKEEPER**

1. Carry out necessary duties at the annual convention:
  - A. Attend the gate(s) for all Michigan State Grange meetings - convention, and any special meeting that may be held.
  - B. Be at the gate at least 1/2 hour before Grange convenes, or arrange for a substitute.

## **FLORA**

1. Is in charge of the Sixth Degree.
2. Arrange for decoration of the stage in readiness for the Sixth Degree.
3. Arrange for her court ladies for the Sixth Degree.
4. Arrange for lighting and Flag Bearers for the Sixth Degree.

## **POMONA**

1. Arrange for her court ladies for the Sixth Degree.

## **CERES**

1. Be prepared to present the flag at all meetings at the State Grange Convention.
2. Arrange for her court ladies for the Sixth Degree.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Attend all regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. Work with State Master in conducting Grange business between annual conventions.
3. Must have demonstrated sound business ability in his chosen profession.

NEXT ISSUE WE  
WILL LIST THE  
DIRECTIVES FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT  
DIRECTORS.