



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXV NO. 4

USPS 345-580

JULY-AUGUST, 2019

## 2019 Michigan State Grange Convention

October 24th-26th  
(one week later than normal)

Convention will be held at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds

Additional information will be Available in the next issue, including hotel/motel list, meal prices, and the Schedule.

Be sure to work on your entries for the Various contests in the departments.

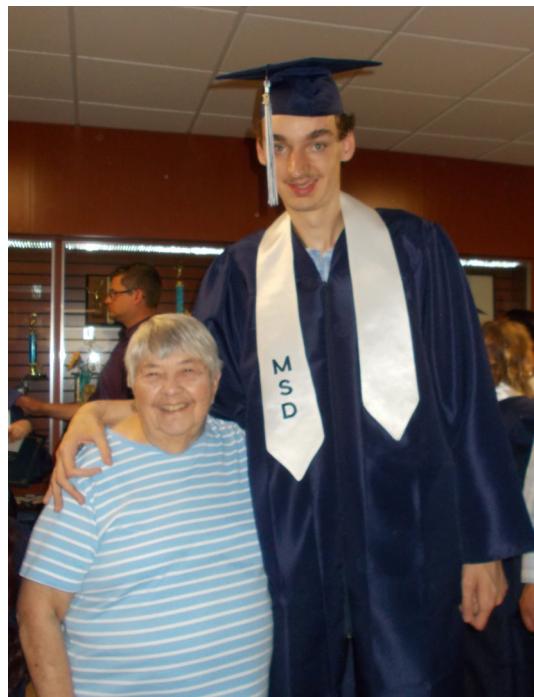
We will once again have a silent auction so your donated items will be appreciated.

Make plans to attend this years convention, there is always lots of fun to be had.

For those of you that receive the Michigan Grange News by mail, will notice a new format. That is because we no longer use the Risograph which handled the 11x17 paper.

**Due Sept. 10th:** Community Service, Membership report form, Lecturer's Report form, Family Activities Report form, Youth & Junior Report forms, Gold Star Grange Report Form

**Due: Sept. 30th:** Membership Display



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Stout Method*



## Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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**July 4 Independence Day**

**July 23-28 Grange Revival**

**Aug. 14 E.C. Meeting**

**Aug. Summertime Fun!**

FAMILY



FUN

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

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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.

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## Chaplain

## Loaves and Fishes

Jeff Swainston P.O. Box 77, Manton, MI 49663 Tel: 616-405-6921 jeff@jnsphoto.biz

A young boy came home from church and announced with great excitement that the lesson had been about a boy who loafed and fished all day. He was referring, of course, to the little boy who offered his loaves of bread and fishes to Jesus.

Jesus had been teaching the large crowd all day long and the disciples suggested sending them into town for food. But Jesus opted to give them something to eat. The disciples were perplexed because there were over 5,000 people there.

You probably know the rest of the story. A boy gave up his lunch, five small loaves and two fish, and with it, Jesus fed the crowd. Some believe that the boy's generosity moved others to share, but Matthew tells us that this was a miracle. The story is found in all four gospels of the new testament.

What can we learn from this? Family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues that surround us may be in various degrees of need. Should we send them away to those who are more capable than we are? Certainly, some people's needs exceed our ability to help them, but not always. Sometimes all it takes is a hug, a kind word, a listening ear, a brief prayer, or some wisdom you may have gathered. Let's share with others and see what He can do through us!!

~Our Daily Bread~

## TEN GRANGE COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou Shalt Be Present. Attendance is the test of Grange interest. The member who is always present is a builder.
2. Thou Shalt Be Punctual. Drop the gavel on time. Close before too late. Push Grange work with dignity and dispatch.
3. Thou Shalt Be Patient. Leadership require tact and ability to work amicably with those who differ from us.
4. Thou Shalt Be Pleasant. The member with a smile can keep all forces working together, and move the Grange forward efficiently.
5. Thou Shalt Be Prepared. Know the Grange and its work. Call others to assist you. Plan for emergencies.
6. Thou Shalt Be Practical. Interpret Grange methods in accordance with the law and facts using plenty of common sense.
7. Thou Shalt Be Pep. Enthusiasm is a great virtue. When you are discouraged keep it to yourself, trying to radiate sunshine.
8. Thou Shalt Be Progressive. Keep step with modern times, but remember real progress rests on the solid rock of truth and facts.
9. Thou Shalt Be a Producer. The member who builds his Grange in membership growth, and service, blesses our order of agriculture.
10. Thou Shalt Be Patriotic. The Grange is essentially American, intensely patriotic, and forward looking in all things.

Christopher D. Johnston, Master      6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414  
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### **Legislative issues Continued**

Last month I mentioned that I was about to be boarding a plane for Washington D.C. Well I made it out there and back all in one piece. I was hoping that similar to years past I would be able to get into Sen. Stabenows office for a visit with her staff. That did not happen, I was however, able to get an appointment with Congressman John Moolenaar. I had a 10:30 appointment that was to last 15 minutes, however I finally walked out of his office shortly after 11. Some people in his waiting room did not look happy. We had a lot of good discussion about issues concerning the National Grange as well as the Michigan State Grange and the people of Michigan. While at the National Grange office for the weekend we had many visitors come to talk with those of us there for the Fly In. Many dealt with rural broadband and the relativity of those in rural community being able to benefit from faster internet service and being able to operate businesses at a more productive rate than they currently are able to. Some discussion was held about urging congress to pass the disaster relief bill that would help many farmers and ranchers in the Great Plains dealing with the over abundance of rain and flooding they had earlier this year.

planning to attend please contact either Sharon Popler or Peggy Johnston and they will assist you in finding something to help occupy your time.



### **Michigan State Grange Pins**

The newest pin of the Michigan State Grange is available for purchase through the state Secretary the cost is only \$5.00 per pin and the proceeds are going to helping with the Michigan State Grange 150<sup>th</sup> celebration that we will have in 2023.



### **National Foundation Quilt Raffle**

National Foundation is selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt made of last years Tender Heart quilt block entries. The tickets are available for \$5.00 each for a queen size quilt. The drawing will be at the National Session on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Get your tickets from me or the state office.

Until next time.....

### **National Grange Session**

National Grange session will be quickly following the state session. With only 2 weeks between sessions there will be little time for rest before we head to Minnesota. Which also means that in order to assist National Grange in the preparations for the delegate body we need to do our due diligence in making sure that the resolutions we pass are in proper form and are relevant to the times and events of the country and organization. We may still be looking for some volunteers to assist at the National session with various projects. If you are

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315  
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On Thursday, June 6, 2019 Peggy Johnston, Sharon Popler, Phil and I attended the Michigan School for the Deaf Graduation. There were 18 graduates this year. This is the biggest class we have seen (in fact 7 were students that were involved in our Adopt-a-child program) and 4 of the younger ones were in charge of the flags and the signing of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The recipient of this years \$500.00 scholarship was Evan Anthony Jones. He came to Michigan School for the Deaf when he was in the 7th grade with very little language. He had difficulty learning and is leaving this year because of his age. He had come very far learning independence and work skills. He is now working in his community part time and at the school part time. He works very hard and is always happy! His parents want him to attend school for this artistic ability. Right now he is working through a vocational organization, getting more Life Skills and vocational training. The committee felt he deserved recognition. We wish him the best!

We congratulate the Class of 2019!

Their theme was "Wherever you go, no matter the weather, always bring your own sunshine."



### REMINDER:

A reminder to any Granges or Grangers that have not already made a donation to the Deaf Awareness Fund...now is the time to do so. Appeal letters went out awhile back. These funds are being used for some super projects.

A special thank you to all of those that have already made your donations. It is greatly appreciated.



### ADOPT-A-CHILD

I have had some inquiries about the Adopt-a-Child Christmas Program at the Michigan School for the Deaf and I appreciate that. If you had a child last year I am assuming you want one this year too. If you were not on my list for last year, please contact me and I will gladly add you to my list. (I have Community Grange, added. Thanks!) It can be a Grange, a Granger or a couple. I have some who have taken two and that's great! Just let me know. I am hoping to get the names of the students by the end of October or the first of November so you have time to shop. If you have any questions please let me know.



### In Memory of Kenneth Becker

**Kenneth S. Becker** of Rockford, MI passed away at the age of 103 on April 17, 2019. He was a long time active member of Courtland Grange and Kinney Grange for over 69 years holding many offices. He was also a member of the Kent-Ottawa-Oceana Pomona. Ken enjoyed farming, carpentry, camping and many other things. Ken cherished life and his family.

He and his wife Erma with another couple were Youth Directors of the Pomona for many years. They were very active with great activities with the youth.

Although his hearing wasn't what it used to be, he was still active and attended meeting with his son, Paul as his chauffeur. **Kinney Grange members agreed we will miss him and his humor! Rest in peace Kenny!**

It's hard to believe, but State Session is only about 4 months away. So how are you doing on entries for all the contests in the various departments? Your efforts and participation is what it's all about, so don't let yourself or the Grange down.

Our State Session is in Adrian this year, and our Family Activities/Community Service is for an organization that assists the homeless in Lenawee County. Last year, we did the Mitten Tree for Kalamazoo, and we are expanding a little on that. My sources in Adrian tells me that they can use mittens, gloves, scarves, hats or socks. We had super support in 2018 and I am sure we can do just as well or even better in 2019. An questions, just call me.

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I wanted to remind you again of the Family Activities report form that will be coming your way soon, if not already. Please take the time to fill it out, and send it in. I'm awarding a special gift to the Grange with the most outstanding report. I have out-of-state judges lined up so they have no knowledge or bias our Grange. There's still time to do a couple more things before sending the report in, so please push and prod to see that your Grange could be the winner. All Granges submitting reports will be recognized with a certificate. Report forms are due by **September 10th**.

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Spring, Summer and Fall! That means all that good fresh Michigan produce to choose from and enjoy. Here are some tips I gleaned from a pamphlet from the USDA which should interest all of us:

They recommend washing fruits and veggies before eating, we all know that, but here's the tips that can help prevent an illness or worse.

- ◆ Begin with clean hands. Wash your hands for 20 seconds with warm water and soap before and after preparing fresh produce.
- ◆ Cut away any damaged or bruised areas. Produce that looks rotten should be discarded.
- ◆ All produce should be thoroughly washed before eating. Wash under running water just before eating, cutting or cooking.
- ◆ Many pre-cut bagged produce items are pre washed. If the package says that the contests have been prewashed, we can use it without further washing, just be sure to look it over for bruising or damage.
- ◆ Even if you plan to peel the produce before eating, it is still important to wash it first.
- ◆ Washing fruits and veggies with a soap or detergent is not recommended.
- ◆ Scrub firm produce such as melons and cucumbers with a clean produce brush.
- ◆ Drying produce with a clean cloth towel or paper towel may further reduce bacteria that might be present.
- ◆ On a separate note, with highly perishable berries, one method for helping them to stay fresh longer is to soak them in a vinegar bath. And don't worry, they won't taste like vinegar. This reportedly helps destroy bacteria and mold spores. Cared for this way, strawberries can last up to two weeks and raspberries a good week.



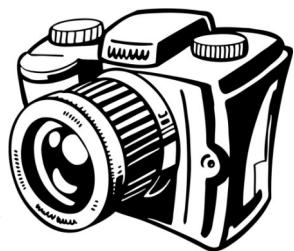
Here's what you need to do:

Make a solution of 3 cups water to 1 cup white vinegar. Place the berries in a bowl and cover with the water/vinegar solution. Let sit for 5 minutes, then drain and rinse the berries. Place on paper towel to dry. To store, line a container with paper towel and place the berries in the container. This will absorb any more moisture.

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive  
Tel: 269-365-0401 jacqueline\_bishop@hotmail.com

**Summer Is Fun!**

Many people do quite a bit of photography in the summer while participating in all kinds of fun activities, so why not see if your great photos match up to a category in the Michigan State Grange Photography Contest? Instead of the “usual” method of going through photos the week or two before State Grange to see what photos you might have that match the categories, you might consider planning photos that you take during your various summer outings and events around the contest categories.



The photography categories are Animals; People in Action; American the Beautiful; Michigan, my Michigan; and County Fair. These categories have been made general to provide opportunities for all ages and considering the kinds of events that Grange families might participate in.

A few of the rules – any size up to 8” X 10”; no glass covering, but instead a firm backing for display (at least poster board weight), one entry per class – but may enter a different photo in all 5 classes.

The contests are also for junior age kids aged 5-14. Even if your Grange does not have a Junior Grange, children and grandchildren of Subordinate members may enter the contests. Juniors receive small cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

Details of all Lecturer’s contests can be found at <http://www.michiganstategrange.org/> - link from the home page to the Program Book, or by contacting me. Entries will be displayed and judged at the Michigan State Grange session in October.

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Summer fun also provides lots of opportunity to be outdoors. This is a time to plan ahead with regard to having available such items as sunscreen, bug spray, band-aids, and similar items for health and safety.

I found a few Summer health tips at WebMD: 1. Give your diet a berry boost, 2. Get dirty, and stress less (working in a garden, planting flowers, etc.), 3. Floss daily, 4. Get outside to exercise, 5. Be good to your eyes – wear sunglasses, 6. Take a vacation to unwind from normal activities, 7. Sleep well – resist the urge to stay up late and don’t take lots of naps.

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A couple questions/answers to make you smile – from Juicy Quotes.com:  
Q: What did the air conditioning unit say to its owner? A: I’m your biggest fan!  
Q: What did pig say at the beach on a hot summer day? A: I’m bacon!

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**Have a great summer!**

**GRANGE REVIVAL!**

**MULBERRY MOUTAIN  
OZARK, ARKANSAS**

**JULY 23-28, 2019**

**GREAT FUN, FELLOWSHIP,  
FOOD, ACTIVITIES!!**

**153 NATIONAL GRANGE  
CONVENTION**

**DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON  
BLOOMINGTON MINNESOTA SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

**NOVEMBER 5-9, 2019**

**GREAT TIME TO TAKE THE  
7TH DEGREE!!**

## AGRICULTURE

### Ruth Stout Method

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

Wow July!? Where did the first 6 months of 2019 go to? It sure doesn't feel like July weather though. Too cool and wet during June so who knows what July will bring! With this weird weather means our garden isn't growing very well. Everything is behind where it should be at this point even though we didn't get it planted until Memorial Day. We have yet to plant our potatoes and at this point we are not doing the 5 gallon bucket method. Instead we are doing the Ruth Stout Method of gardening on them. This method will require basically very little watering and no weeding when done correctly. It is a system where you are "composting" the materials back into the soils during the winter months including the plants/vines from the growing season! No more need to use the rototiller. I hope this works well! Google Ruth Stout method of gardening. There are videos and everything on the internet on this form of gardening plus others as well.

We are a few short months now from our 2019 State Session that is being held at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds in Adrian this year. Remember the dates have been change for this year to the week after our normal set dates.

Fair season is here with the start of the month of July. Lots of hard work by the youth all over our State of Michigan will be on display when your local County Fair is going on. Please take some time to attend your County Fair to show support of our Youth. They are the future of our State and Country and we need to encourage them to do the best they can. The pigs and goats are just about on schedule here for weight gain for our County fair. They let me know every day that they see me and want their dinner! LOL I love having them around and will miss the noises they make but will enjoy fewer chores I will have at the end of August.

Here is hoping your gardens are growing or will be and that your harvest is bountiful.

Until the next MGN....

#### Quote of the Day:

I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden, Ruth Stout,

## MEMBERSHIP

### Membership Display

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640  
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Welcome to summer! Hopefully it will be arriving soon! It's hard to believe another Grange year is almost done.

I hope every Grange has been working on acquiring new members! I will be honest and say that my Grange, Studley Grange, has not done much. But I have great plans for next year! I am participating in monthly conference calls with the National Grange, looking at membership numbers in Michigan and organizing a plan. I may not have much to report at State Session this year, but watch out in 2020!!

As I have mentioned in previous Michigan Grange News articles, the National Grange Membership Department is having a contest this year. The goal is to create a display promoting your Grange and to use it in the community your Grange serves. I won't take the space to go into specifics about the program. It is in your Program Book or you may contact me for information.

Keystone Grange in Pennsylvania created a display earlier this year. I found this on the National Grange Community Service Facebook page. This is a great place to get and share ideas with other grangers! You won't be able to see all the details on the photo, but it is filled with activities that their Grange does. If you would like to have a better view of this, let me know and I can email it to you.

I hope to see many submissions of what you did to promote the Grange! Reminder that your entry needs to be to me

by September 1 so I can have them judged and sent to National Grange by September 30.

Enjoy the beautiful days of summer!



Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014  
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## What is Community Service?

One of the graduating seniors from the Battle Creek area had to write an essay on his involvement and ideas of what Community Service is. He has worked many hours for the Grange and I thought you would like to see what one of our Youth Members thinks about Community Service...

During all of the hours that I did for this project I didn't necessarily deal with fix or face any huge problems or any major complications, I mostly just helped the community through the Fredonia Grange. One of the things that I believe dealt with a problem would be when we made quilts for the homeless and the elderly along with making dog pads for the local animal shelter. Over the summer, including the school holidays, snow days, or weekends my grandma would come to our house pick my brother and me up and take us to the Fredonia Grange. We would go make pet pads out of donated fabric for the local animal shelter and make quilts for the elderly, people in need and the disabled. I remember piecing together all the different fabrics into patterns that I thought looked well. I would help sew the quilts and once we made enough quilts we would bring them to the retirement home or to a shelter and hand them out to people.

Other than making and giving out quilts we also served food at the Marshall fair and weekend pancake breakfasts in the Fredonia kitchen. This helped raise money for the Fredonia Grange expenses including the money to make the quilts.

Along with that, I helped out our local zoo a lot and helped teach younger kids new soccer skills. I enjoyed teaching kids different skills for my favorite sport. One of the biggest things that motivated me to become involved in these community projects would probably have to be my grandma and great grandma they both have always been super involved in community service. I've always looked up to them and how they have been able to dedicate all of that time to a greater cause. I've learned so much from my grandma, great grandma, and the Grange that it is almost impossible for me to pick one specific thing that stands out above the rest but if I had to choose it would probably have to be that you can always help someone whether it's directly or indirectly. There is never a shortage of ways to help someone and I have always encouraged everyone to take full advantage of that.



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There is no greater feeling than getting told that you made someone's day or that they look forward to seeing you, you just can't beat that feeling. I plan on doing community service until the day I am physically not capable of doing it anymore because that is how much I love it. To be honest, I didn't find out about this scholarship until I had 200 or so hours already completely done because that is how often I volunteered. The fact that I could use those hours to put some money towards my education was just a huge benefit because I would've done that 400 hours whether or not there was money in it for me. My friends think it's crazy how many hours I've spent volunteering but that is one of the things that I feel makes me unique. I wouldn't trade those 400 hours of helping people or being surrounded by people that I love and who love me, for anything at all.

I hope we can all agree that this Grange Youth Member has Community Service in his heart.

Continue working on your Community Service Report. Review the guide lines for your Report and it needs to be mailed to the Community Service Director by **September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.