



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVI NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MARCH-APRIL, 2020

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH

Is your Grange planning something special during the month of April? Now is the time to get started with those plans. There are many ways to celebrate this special month .

- ◆ A display in a library or store window.
- ◆ A special dinner for your members to thank them for all they do.
- ◆ An open house or open meeting to let non-members know what your Grange is all about.
- ◆ Invite the public in to hear a special speaker.
- ◆ Great time to present membership awards or other awards such as: Dedicated Worker, Community Citizen, V.I.P., Teacher of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, or Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Whatever you plan for Grange month (April) make it special and be sure to get the publicity that is due your program or event.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Plan Now to Attend!!

Get your reservations made!!

The 2020 Michigan State Convention will be held October 22-24, 2020 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center at 2650 South I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI The number for the hotel to make your reservations is: 989-348-7611. Their FAX number in case you should need it is: 989-348-7984. Thirty Four first floor rooms have been reserved. Cost: \$75.00 per night plus tax. Rooms not reserved by October 15, 2020 will fall back into inventory for general hotel guests.

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Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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- March 8** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17** St. Patrick's Day
- March 20** 1st Day of Spring!!
- April 12** Easter

Chaplain Homeless

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

During the last two weeks of January, I was invited to participate in the Point-In-Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Wexford County, particularly in the Manton area. This is a nationwide annual event, the goal of which is trying to determine how many homeless people we have living in local communities. The supervising agency in my area is NMCAA (Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency) and a part of that is NMCEH (Northern Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness). After a day of training, several teams of volunteers were unleashed in their assigned communities, not only looking for homeless individuals, but visiting local businesses and organizations to raise awareness to the issue of homelessness in the local area. There are many county, state, and federal resources available to assist these persons if they are considered truly homeless by HUD's definition. If you have experienced any connection with homeless individuals, please contact me or the agency in your specific county and help connect them to the assistance that is available.

Blessings to each of you!



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Tel: 989-288-4546
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

TODAY IS A GOOD DAY
TO HAVE A GREAT DAY
TO SMILE MORE...WORRY LESS
TO BE THE VERY BEST VERSION OF YOU
TO DO MORE OF WHAT
MAKES YOU HAPPY EVERY DAY
TO BE POSITIVE AND REGRET NOTHING
TO BE HUMBLE AND WORK HARD
EVERY DAY MAY NOT BE GOOD BUT
FIND SOMETHING GOOD IN EVERY DAY
LAUGH
LOVE
LIVE
FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
AND REMEMBER TO BE AWESOME



Honoring our Veterans!!! Fredonia Grange #1713

The Veterans at the VA hospital in Battle Creek are being honored with an all experience paid trip to Washington D.C. to see their Memorial. The Talons Out Honor Flight took a group of veterans in November and is taking another group this Spring. The VA hospital has asked the ladies of the Fredonia Grange sewing group to make 80 lap robes for the Veterans going this Spring. It is with great pride and honor that we fulfill their request. As of today we have over 50 lap robes finished and are working to reach our goal.

Spring is in the air

At least at the time of me writing this article. I have just returned home from the Masters Conference in Baltimore Maryland. It was wonderfully in the high 40's to low 50's when I arrived, and well into the low 30's when I left. Since I had arrived a bit early, I took the opportunity to jump on the metro and head into DC. I walked around our nation's capital for a few hours enjoying the sights of the town. I did notice that the middle of February is really the right time to go to the Nation's Capital since there are very few tourists there. The downfall of that is that there are very few food trucks, so no cheap meals.



I returned to the hotel and enjoyed the fellowship of fellow National Officers and State Masters for the remainder of the evening. In the morning we were treated to a tour of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. My tour was guided by a retired Captain, who had also served as the director of admissions at the academy. If you ever have the chance take the time and go on the tour and remember as our guide told us this academy does not belong to the Navy it belongs to the American citizens who pay for it. The rest of the weekend was filled with exciting speakers and discussions about the various tasks before us over the rest of this year.

Grange Month

April is Grange month, this is the time of year we blow our own whistle. Some Granges hand out membership awards, VIP awards, Law enforcement, Fire, Teacher of the year awards, some have an open house. If you have an open house at your Grange hall, please let us know about it. Whatever your Grange decides to do in Grange month, if you have a social media that you prefer to use, please create an event two weeks ahead of time and post reminders 2-3 days before your event. The theme for Grange Month is "Cultivating Connections".

**National Grange**

The National Grange Lecturers department has a new quarterly publication entitled "A quarters worth".

If you are interested in receiving this publication please contact Jackie Bishop, your Michigan State Grange Lecturer, who happens to have been featured on the front page of the first edition.

The National Grange headquarters conference room on the first floor is being completely renovated, from wall to wall and floor to ceiling. The objective of this renovation is to modernize the audio and video equipment as well as the decor of the room and make it more appealing for tenants of the building to utilize, as well as generate some income from outside businesses.

The membership director Joe Stefenoni has released a new resource manual. The manual includes seven sections titled: Business Information, Grange meeting Information, Grange Law, Officer resources, Grange program information, State Grange Information, Miscellaneous.

State Grange

As we are ever gaining speed towards the 150th celebration of the Michigan State Grange, I am looking for dedicated members to join the celebration committee. This committee will be looking at the ways to celebrate during our 150th convention. Also to help with the cost of this celebration we are still selling the newest Michigan State Grange pin for \$5 if you are interested in a pin or two please contact the state Secretary.



Until the next time....

"Cultivating Connections"

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

Spring is coming soon, hopefully. Enough of this cold weather!

I want to thank the Granges and Grangers who “answered” the **Wish List from the Michigan School for the Deaf teachers**. I was amazed at all the items that were brought to the school the day of the Adopt-a-Child Christmas party. I don’t know all that was brought that day but they made at least 4 or 5 trips to the office with the items packed on carts. I know that some of the items were:

- 6 wooden puzzles, a wooden train set,
- coloring books, many boxes of crayons,
- paper binders, 2 notebook packs of paper,
- 5 twin packs of glue sticks, 100 pencil erasers,
- many pencils, 6 bottles of white glue,
- boxes of colored washable markers,
- spiral notepads, wooden blocks and board,
- 3 match games, 5 children’s books,
- 3 bean bag chairs, ink pens, scissors,
- Star stickers, sweatshirt, socks, scarf, hats,
- Gloves, muffs, Washcloths, toothbrush & paste,
- soap, Combs and jewelry boxes.

Wow! What a list of what I know that was brought and I know more should be added. You all came through with “flying colors”!

Deaf Awareness Contests

Please continue to look in the Program Booklet for contests that you can enter! Let’s make this next State session a “growth” in entries!

If you have Junior Grange aged children or grandchildren or even children of that age in your neighborhood consider having them enter the Deaf Awareness Poster Contest. Talk to them about how it would be to be deaf or hard of hearing and the challenges involved. Then have them make a poster. It’s a great rainy day project that just could earn them a few dollars and a ribbon!

There is also the essay contest that is not only open to Juniors but also Subordinate members. Topics include:

1. What would your experience be with parents or loved ones that became deaf with age?
2. What would your experience be with a child who is deaf?

3. What do you think your experience would be if you were deaf?
 300 words and you could have another entry for the contest!



Wishing each of you a “blarney” St’ Patrick’s Day,

a blessed Easter



and a Happy Spring!



How many of us suffer from a bit of forgetfulness...

A Little Mixed Up

Just a line to say I’m living,
 That I’m not among the dead
 Though I’m getting more forgetful
 And more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I don’t remember
 When I stand at the foot of stair
 If I must go up for something
 Or I’ve just come down from there.

And before the fridge, so often
 My poor mind is filled with doubt.
 Have I just put food away, or
 Have I come to take some out?

So if it’s my turn to write you
 There’s no need in getting sore
 I may think that I have written
 And don’t want to be a bore.

So just remember I’m your friend
 And wish that you were here
 But now it’s nearly mail time
 So I’ll just sign off with cheer.

There I stood beside the mailbox
 With a face so very red,
 Instead of mailing you my letter
 I had opened it instead....

Tom Smith, Co-Director 816 4th Street, Three Rivers, MI 49093 Tel: 269-858-8305
 Barbara Johnston, Co-Director 2028 Robbins Road, Tipton, MI 49287 Tel: 517-431-2546 tnbjohnston@pc.com

Do you have any resolutions still in effect? I've got just one, I resolved that each month I would work on an entry for one of the many State Grange Department contests. So far January is done, and working on February's. This might be a good idea for others, so you're not at the last minute feeling overwhelmed just before session.

And be sure to hang on to your program book from the last Grange News. There in lies all the contests for all of our departments and there have been many changes from previous years.

(If you have lost or misplaced your Program book, either contact the State Office or check out each department on the website for their program information. www.michiganstategrange.org)

Again, if you have any questions on Family Activities work be sure to call on Barb or me or Russ.

Happy Granging to All!

Grocery Shopping Tips

Everybody knows grocery shopping can be an ordeal and down right expensive at times. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says the average consumer unit, defined by 1-4 individuals spends up to \$500 per month on groceries! Anything you can save is a plus for your budget. These are some ways to cut costs, whether for a family or an individual.

Baking Items:

Find a bakery outlet in your area, where Bakeries unload their overproduction. You'll find high quality, fresh products at rock bottom prices. Time your trip for Sale Day and Save 50% or more. Bakery items freeze well, so stock up.

Produce:

Fruits and vegetables are high quality and low price in season. Shop farm markets and watch produce costs plunge by at least 20%.

Be an Early Bird:

Store meat managers chop as much as 50% from the original price of meat, fish and poultry when dates are near. Items close to date not consumed within 24 hours should be frozen.

Milk-a-Discount:

With milk prices high, buying at a discount makes sense. Save at least \$1.00 per gallon at a warehouse

club. Low-fat milk freezes well, so stock up if you have room.

Switch Neighborhoods:

The prices in two supermarkets owned by the same company can vary by as much as 10% when one is located in an upscale community and the other in a lower income area!

Cash Only:

Simple! Leave the checkbook, debit and credit cards at home. You'll curtail your impulse purchases and save big money.

Store Brands:

Today, generic and store brands are often the same as the national brand. Only label and price are different. Save at least 10% on prepackaged and canned goods by making the switch.

Frozen Concentrates:

If mixing directions say 3 cans of water; add 4. Frozen juices are so concentrated that a little extra water won't make a difference in taste, but you will save at least \$1.00 a week if you use 4 cans.

Eat at home more often. Bureau of Labor statistics says the average family can spend up to \$4896 a year eating out, in addition to groceries.

CHUNKING

Our short-term memories are set up to hold only five to nine items. Most of us cannot remember more than this without using "tools."

Chunking is one tool that helps us remember a group of objects by arranging them in smaller pieces of information or categories. Our social security numbers and telephone numbers are remembered by three groups. How about that grocery list...Consider the following list: catsup, tomatoes, milk, sour cream, cherries, baking soda, and chili pepper. Suggested ways to categorize them...

Items that are red: catsup, tomatoes, cherries, and chili pepper **OR** Items that are white: milk, sour cream, baking soda **OR** Condiments and baking: catsup, chili pepper, baking soda...Dairy milk, sour cream...Fruits and vegetables: tomatoes, cherries **OR** Where these items are found in the store **OR** which items you need for different recipes.

Each of these methods can be helpful.

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
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Hope all of you have been enjoying our relatively mild Winter. Just under one month from today is the first day of Spring, which many welcome. In many ways, it is a “rebirth” or awakening, as flowers begin to bloom and trees begin to “green up”.

In our religious lives, Easter on April 12, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the Christian world; in the Jewish tradition, Passover on April 8 is celebrated as God’s protection of His people and for how He freed them from being slaves; and in the Islamic calendar, Ramadan, which begins April 23, is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

In our Grange lives, April is Grange Month. Traditionally, this has been a time for Granges to celebrate and to invite the community to their events to learn more about the Grange. Even if you are not the Lecturer of your Grange, this is an opportunity for you to make suggestions to your Lecturer about ways to involve the community and spread the message of the Grange. Ideas for action:

- have an Open House (with food!) where you display your typical Grange activities,
- have an awards program
 - * for Grange members longevity in the Grange that might include presentation of a Very Important Patron award,
 - * and/or present the Community Service Dedicated Worker award, and/or present the National Grange Dick Patten Community Service Firefighter of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, or the Teacher of the Year Award,
- submit a press release to your local news media regarding your Grange, including an invitation to your events,
- coordinate with your local church to have a hymn sing-along at the Grange Hall,
- customize and create a program for your Grange and your community.

Spring trivia: Did you know that baby birds must learn to sing? Although they are born with the ability

to sing, they must learn the songs of their species. An isolated baby bird will learn simple songs, but not the complex songs of its species. A bird must hear in order to learn. Only a few birds can sing the songs of other species. The mockingbird seems to be the best at imitating the songs of other birds. (Source: <https://withgia.com/assets/files/Spring%20Trivia%20Quiz.pdf>)

Another program or activity idea could be wrapped around Earth Day, celebrated April 22. Many communities have activities to celebrate this day that you or your Grange could participate in. Your Grange might want to sponsor an activity for the whole community. If you are looking for possible ideas, I recommend going to your public library, or if you have Internet access, check out this link: 20 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day in 2018 – MERS Goodwill: mersgoodwill.org/20-ways-celebrate-earth-day-2018/. Don’t forget to have some fun at all your events!

MEMBERSHIP

Pledge Cards

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
Tel: 989-631-0079 E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net

I hope each Grange has received the pledge cards I sent in January and reported at a meeting on them. I hope to see many of them returned to me in the very near future!

Just a reminder that the Grange year for the membership department ends June 30. That means there is not much time to recruit new members before this deadline. Please seriously consider adding to your membership roll!

I want to congratulate the following Granges for having an increase in membership for the 2018-2019 grange year. I realize this seems like a long time ago. And it was. The membership Grange year runs July 1 thru June 30.

West Oshtemo #1630	4 members
Colon #215	3 members
Pittsfield Union #822	3 members
Maple Leaf #940	3 members
Adams #286	2 members
Burns #160	1 member

Hopefully you have taken the time to read the information I provided in the Program Book on a membership display contest. I hope to see a report from many Granges!

Wishing you a happy spring!

Tricia

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

Is it Spring yet?!?! This winter hasn't been much of a winter in my corner of the mitten this year. We have had very little snow but have made up for it with rain. At least we have had the moisture needed for the crops when the farmers start planting in the spring. The temperatures have been pretty mild most of the winter so far and I really hope it stays that way until Spring gets here. Spring is around the corner just by looking at what is coming in my mailbox lately. Seed catalogs and hatchery catalogs have been coming for the last week or more! If looking at these types of catalogs do not put you in the mood for Spring I don't know what would!

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 allowed to grow right. If you have a way to do research maybe you could look into doing some vertical gardening which will help you save on space.

Don't forget to plan what you would like to grow for the Agriculture Department Growing contests that are new in your Program Book. Be sure to check out the Program Book for all the class details and rules. I have changed a few of the classes from last State Session. I hope we will have a good turn out as this will give everyone in the Grange a chance to show what they can do! Brother Tom Smith shared with me a page from the Indiana State Grange newsletter that listed all the winners in their Ag Department classes from this past year's IN State Session. Keep in mind they do not have many Granges in their state but they had 54 entries just in their Ag Department. I would be happy if we have 24 entries at our state session this October. Please consider one of the classes if you have never entered in the Ag Department. Agriculture is one of the main reasons the

Grange was formed.

If you are looking to do a new planting in your yard this spring, here is something to think about when deciding what to plant. This information though from 2015 is still very important as bees are being killed off too quickly which is very harmful to Agriculture as bees are needed to help pollinate our crops. This is from an article from the October 2015 Tennessee Granger which borrowed from the New Jersey State Grange CGA Director. It is entitled Honey Bees.

Bees of all kinds have been declining in numbers over the past few years. The reasons are many, but one of the most important is the lack of suitable plants from which bees can collect nectar and pollen all season long. About 1/3 of the food eaten by Americans come from crops pollinated by honey bees, including fruits, vegetables and nuts. You can help honey bees and native pollinators by planting bee-friendly plants in your garden. Here is a list of perennials to help get a bee garden started.

Crocus White Sweet Clover Catnip
 Russian Sage Mountain Mint
 Snowdrops Thyme Purple Cone Flower
 Anise Hyssop Goldenrod Autumn Joy Sedum

When a foraging bee discovers plants that are producing nectar or pollen, it returns to the hive to inform the other bees about the source. More bees then join the foraging. Bees prefer to work large patches of the same flower, so planting several of the same type of bee-friendly plants ensures a good source of forage. It is best to leave flowers on the plant until the blooms are spent, allowing the bees to make the most of each flower. Planting perennials that bloom at different times during the year insures a source of nectar throughout the foraging season. DID YOU KNOW: A honey bee visits up to 100 flowers on a single trip outside of the hive.

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

HARRY MASSEY

Past National Membership Director

Many of our members remember when Harry would come to Michigan and all the fun we had with him. He has always been a FANTASTIC guy and a great friend. He is now suffering with a very rare brain disorder. Lets show him we remember him well with a shower of cards and notes.

Harry Massey

Friends Home at Guilford

925 New Garden Road, Room B4, Greensboro, NC 27410

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Tel: 269-209-6640 Email: roccomaryann@yahoo.com

A review of the Community Service Rules:

PROGRAM PERIOD: The Community Service program period is September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

REPORTS:

Community Service Reports should be sent to the Community Service Director by **September 10th, 2020**.

DIVISIONS: Granges are divided into two categories. Small Granges with 40 members or less and large Granges with more than 40 members. Membership numbers are determined by the second quarter (June 30) membership report to the State Secretary. Granges will compete within own category.

SUMMARY REPORTS: A summary report form will be supplied to each Community Service Chairman. A report may be submitted alone or with a notebook to receive full credit as an entry. Re-ports may be typed or neatly hand written.

NOTEBOOK REPORTS: Notebook reports **MUST** contain the Summary Report as the first pages of the report. Materials should be organized and indexed in a manner that effectively tells the story of your Grange's Community Service work.

NOTEBOOK SIZE: Maximum size for a notebook is a 2 inch binder. Only one book can be entered. Any notebooks larger than this will not be judged. (Materials such as DVDs and computer generated pro-grams should not be included with reports and may not be used in place of a notebook report.)

Materials such as DVDs and computer-generated pro-grams should not be included with reports and may not be used in place of a notebook report.)

PROJECTS: Descriptions of projects should answer the questions, What? Who? Why? How? And When?

GRANGE AWARDS

We 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.

DEDICATED WORKER AWARD

This award has its importance to the granges presenting the award. This award will no longer be judged at the state level. We hope that Granges will continue to present this award to people in their community.

The purpose of the Dedicated Worker Award is to honor someone in your community that has made a difference. Giving public recognitions to those who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done.

VIP –VERY IMPORTANT PERSON

The purpose of the VIP Award is for each Grange to honor a member who has make an outstanding contribution to the Grange.

Submission:

Only one entry from a Grange may be submitted to the State Grange per year. Submit a biography and a summary of the contribution the VIP nominee has made to the Grange. If possible also submit a photograph of your VIP. The submission shall be sent to the State Community Service Director post-marked by September 10th

Judging will be the responsibility of the State Community Service Director. An award will be presented at the Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange

National Grange Awards Do you have any nominations for National Grange Awards for the Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and/or Teacher of the Year Award in your areas.

Secretary

Tote Bags Needed

Peggy Johnston 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429
Tel: 989-288-4546 or 517-285-6532 E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com



Convention Tote Bags

I am looking for a Grange or Granger that would like to make up some tote bags to be given away at the next convention. The last few years we have been trying to use up the ones we had stock piled and now we are down to less than 10.

We have had some very generous Grangers in the past to make and donate them.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please let me know. I can give measurements if needed. They do need to be big enough to hold the folder and any other information that is collected.

These can be made and brought to the convention in October or sent to me at the address above.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Distinguished Grange and Grange in Action

These are both National Grange Contests. The Distinguished Grange Contest has been in existence for around ten years and the Grange in Action is in its second year. We have only had a couple of Granges in Michigan that have participated in the Distinguished Grange over the years and there is quite a number of requirements to accomplish for this award. With that being said...National Grange came up with the **Grange in Action Contest** which is **SO** much easier to do that every Grange in this state should be able to enter it. Studley Grange #1174 entered it this past year.

HERE'S HOW:

Submit a **one page letter size with pictures and captions of at least 3 various events/activities that the Grange either sponsored or assisted with** from September 1, 2019 to September 1, 2020. Anything over one page will be disqualified.

The Grange name, number and state must be on the front of the page.

On a separate page, please include the name, address, phone and/or cell number and email address of whom submitted the Grange In Action.

Granges that qualify for the 2020 Distinguished Grange award are not eligible for this recognition.

Deadline to submit the one page to National Grange is September 25, 2020 either postmarked or electronic.

Mail to National Grange, Attn: Loretta Washington—1616 H Street, NW 11th Floor, Washington, DC or email to Loretta Washington at lwashington@nationalgrange.org Please put Grange in Action report in the subject line for the email.

If we get six Granges in Michigan to participate in this contest, Michigan will be recognized as a State Grange in Action.