



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVI NO. 6

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2020 MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE CONVENTION A BIT DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, BUT WE MADE THE BEST OF IT

Elbow bumps instead of hugs



A quick hello!

Getting registered



Selling DA raffle tickets



Stuffing envelopes with certificates



Setting up the computers



Greetings with social distancing

Lunch and Banquet Meals



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Convention

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Michigan Grange News

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- Nov. 1** Daylight Savings Time
- Nov. 3** Election Day
- Nov. 11** Veteran's Day
- Nov. 26** Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 21** 1st day of Winter
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day
- Dec. 31** New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1** 2021 Finally!!!



| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
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Chaplain

All Saints Day

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ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day is celebrated on November 1 in the Christian church. It is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. Hebrews 12 encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

On All Saints Day we remember all those—famous or obscure—who are part of the "communion of saints" we confess whenever we recite "The Apostles' Creed." We tell the stories of the saints "to glory gone."

Alongside the likes of Paul from the New Testament, Augustine, Martin Luther, and John and Charles Wesley, we tell stories of the grandmother who took us to church every Sunday. We remember the pastor who prayed with us in the hospital, and the neighbor who changed the oil in the family car. We give thanks for the youth leader who told us Jesus loved us, the kindergarten Sunday school teacher who showered us with that love, and the woman in the church who bought us groceries when we were out of work.

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.

Charles Wesley's hymn tells us those "to glory gone" are joined by the "saints on earth," whom we also celebrate on All Saints Day. We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow Christians who inspire us, and whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share.

Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm's way.

On All Saints Day, we give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints.



Richard Hazen, Master of Fredonia Grange #1713 presenting Mary LaFountain with the 2020 MSG VIP Award.

Michigan State Grange 2020 VIP Recipient

I was honored to present the 2020 Michigan State Grange VIP Award to Mary LaFountain.

For over 60 years she has been a rock to us and to me there is nobody more worthy of this honor.

We wish we could have presented this award at a meeting for other members to witness but we couldn't wait any longer.

Congratulations "Mom" on this prestigious achievement.

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
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STATE SESSION

Well that was definitely a different version of State Session. I missed seeing all who normally would have been in attendance. However, I think the convention went as well as could be expected. With only 8 resolutions coming from the local Granges, we were able to bring them all to the floor rather than having them go through committees. One of those resolutions will be going onto the National Grange. Awards of the various departments were read and all the certificates were put into envelopes for each Grange to be picked up after lunch. Election of Officers happened throughout the day with three offices having new members filling them. The Executive Committee welcomed Tom Smith, Steward is now Tim Johnston and the Gatekeeper is Randy Cebulski.

It seemed odd to have down time after the session was over and not hurrying to get the display room taken down and everything loaded back in the trailer. I am hopeful that next year when we join together in Bay City that will be back to normal. Thank you to Region 1 for your help in the preparations for this year's convention.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers. I look forward to working with you over the next two years.

NATIONAL SESSION

The National Session this November has been changed to be conducted entirely on zoom over the course of two days. Committees will all meet via zoom at a designated time before session to go over present policy and the submitted resolutions. I am intrigued to see how this works and look forward to virtually seeing all of the National Officers and Delegates, even if it is on a computer screen. As with any organization we have to remember to be flexible, especially during a pandemic.

ZOOM MEETINGS

As a reminder the State Grange has a Zoom account where we can set up virtual meetings for your Grange. This is to help with social distancing and

with winter coming, in case of bad weather. As a reminder, members do not need to have a computer with internet access, as long as they have a phone, they are able to call into the meeting. You just won't be able to see them. Just let me know when and what time you need a meeting and I can forward you a link to share with your members

RESOLUTION TO NATIONAL GRANGE

We had one resolution this year that passed at State and has been sent onto National Grange:

GOLDEN SHEAF MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, A Golden Sheaf member is one who has achieved 50 years of continuous Grange membership and who has been awarded the National Grange Golden Sheaf Certificate, and

WHEREAS, belonging to an organization for 50 years or more should be recognized as an achievement and should be rewarded

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Members who have achieved this high esteem of Golden Sheaf status will not be required to pay annual dues.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

2023 will be the year! We will be having a celebration in honor of 150 years of Grange in Michigan.

With every celebration (party) comes extra expenses. We have developed a Michigan State Grange Pin in honor of our 150 years and they are for sale!

We are selling these pins for \$5.00 each. If you are interested in one or two or more, please contact the State Grange office. If they can easily be delivered to you they will be...if not there will also be a charge for postage.



Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
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Where has this year gone? I sure hope 2021 is a much better year! We have had a busy year but many things have happened,

I would like to thank the following Granges and Grangers for their donations to the Deaf Awareness Fund. The donations were sent from Fern Grange #803, St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona #4, Studley Grange #1174, Burns Grange #160, Mosherville Grange #1351, Home Grange #129, Mid Michigan Pomona #61, Gratiot Grange #1898, Kinney Grange #754 and Kenneth Becker. As there were changes this year due to Covid 19 the scholarship was not presented to a graduating senior at the Michigan School for the Deaf this year. In contacting the school I got no response and later found out that the school has been closed since March. Hopefully next year will be different. We did send \$200.00 to the Alexander Graham Bell Summer Camp Fund, however, their camps were cancelled this summer so the money will go support next year's camp.

I'm happy to report that we did have the Adopt-a-Child at Christmastime last year, The following Granges and Grangers that supported a child were the Libbey family (2 students), Peggy Johnston, Dale Moore and Sharon Popler, Burns Grange #160 (2 students), Gratiot Grange #1878, Community Grange #1675, Kinney Grange #754, Carlisle Grange #812, Oceana Center Grange #1047, Mid Michigan Pomona #61, Barnard Grange #689, Plymouth/Westland Grange #389 (2 students), North Adrian Grange, #721, Burr Oak #1350, Rome Grange #293, Fredonia Grange #1713, Marshall and Jackie Bishop, Phil and Luanna Swainston, Studley Grange #1174, West Oshtemo Grange #1630, Ted and Helen Mudd and Trisha Eidsmoe, St. Joseph/Cass/ Kalamazoo Pomona #4 and Mosherville Grange #1351. We will not be having the Adopt-a-Child this year. I mentioned that the school has been closed since March and the students are at home. When I talked to Susanne Middlewood, the one I am in contact with also told me the students will not be in session until possibly at least by January 22, 2021. If the students are back in school at that time we could see if there was

anything they may need at that time. I will keep everyone posted. Thanks to everyone who supports this program.

Our "big project" was a result of being awarded one of the two grants from the National Grange Foundation. Our project was to send two posters (the American Manual Alphabet and the Pledge of Allegiance) to every school district in the state of Michigan. The total number of envelopes sent out was 647. I want to thank those who had a part in this project. Thanks to Peggy Johnston for helping with the application, purchasing materials, putting stamps on the envelopes, etc. Also to Sharon Popler, Arnette Welsh, Dale Moore and Phil Swainston for helping us prepare the envelopes, putting the posters and other information in the envelopes and labeling them. We are hoping this makes an impact on the deaf awareness in the state of Michigan. The posters are free to the teachers with them only paying for postage.

Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets on the Manual Alphabet Quilt that was raffled off at the Michigan State Grange this year. The money earned will also help us with our "project". The winner was Maria Lopez! Congratulations!



Left: Luanna Swainston, DA Director, Right: Maria Lopez and grandson, Winners!

As 2020 ends I hope everything will be better in 2021. Merry Christmas to you and your families and the best of the New Year!

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

We made it! 2020 State Session is now just a memory and lives in our history, but somehow we did it in one day. It was odd with no displays, degrees or music but it went well, a few familiar faces were missing, hope to see you in 2021. Thanks to our Grange friends up north for all they did to make things work.

And by the way, speaking of 2021, your Family Activities Contests for this year will be used as next year's program. The list of contests for all departments should in your Jan-Feb. 2021 Grange News, so be sure to save that copy for future reference. And if you had made articles for this year, they will be eligible in 2021.

Thanks to all the Granges that sent in annual reports. We may not have been able to accomplish all we hoped to but under the circumstances we did okay. About 50% of our Granges reported this year and were recognized at State Session with a certificate acknowledging their work. Let's try and make that 50% number go even higher in 2021!

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTED TO:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Harbor Springs #730 | Summit City #672 | Burns #160 | Home #129 |
| Gratiot #1898 | Kinney #754 | Studley #1174 | Mosherville #1351 |
| Colon #215 | North Adrian #721 | Burr Oak #1350 | Community #1675 |
| Mid Michigan Pomona #61 | Lenawee County Pomona #15 | | |

Craft Some Fall Flair

Welcome autumn into your home with these quick and easy crafts:



Door Décor. Combine leaves, acorns and miniature pumpkins to make a show stopping wreath for your door. Glue the items to a grapevine or straw wreath, or wrap a foam wreath form with burlap or plaid fabric for a cozy rustic look.



Pumpkin planter. Cut the top off a real or artificial pumpkin and fill it with a houseplant, fall mums or a bouquet of other

blooms. Mini pumpkins can hold small succulents or battery-operated tea lights.



Glam Gourds. Use gold or silver glitter glue to decorate a white pumpkin with a design of swirls, zigzags or polka dots. Add a greeting such as "Welcome: or "Happy Fall."



Festive Foliage. Gather fallen leaves in rich hues of red, orange and yellow, or buy artificial leaves at a craft store. String them together using a needle and thread or fishing line. Hang the garland over a doorway or window.



Artsy acorns. Collect or purchase acorns, then paint the seed portion of each one, leaving its brown cap natural. Choose paint colors to reflect a theme: traditional fall tones, metallic shades

for some sparkly, or neon colors for frighteningly good fun! Once dry, display the acorns in a bowl or vase.

Michigan State Grange Resolutions that passed:

1. **RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR DORIS FELTON: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** Michigan State Grange extends their sincere appreciation to Sister Doris Felton for her service to the Executive Committee for the Michigan State Grange.
2. **RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR BARBARA CASTLE: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** Michigan State Grange extends their sincere appreciation to Sister Barbara Castle for her service as Steward to the Michigan State Grange.

Continued on page 6

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
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PHOTOGRAPHY 1ST PLACE WINNERS



ANIMALS:

Kathryn Hsu-Bishop
Home Grange #129

SCENERY

Peggy Johnston
Burns Grange #160

PEOPLE IN ACTION

Dale Moore
Studley Grange #1174

PHOTOGRAPHY WINNERS LIST:

8 persons entered, with 17 different photos

Scenes: 1st - Peggy Johnston, 2nd - Tricia Eidsmoe, 3rd - Connie Johnston

People in Action - 1st - Dale Moore, 2nd - Peggy Johnston

Animals: 1st - Kathryn Hsu-Bishop (pronounced Sue-Bishop), 2nd - Cory Johnston, 3rd - Tricia Eidsmoe

CREATIVE WRITING - My Favorite Holiday - Peggy Johnston, 1st place

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED:

Mid-Michigan Pomona # 61 —Sharon Popler;
Lenawee Pomona # 15, — JoAnne Normand;
Colon Grange # 215 —Mary Beth Bower
Gratiot Grange # 1898 — Peggy Johnston
North Adrian Grange # 721 — JoAnne Normand
Studley Grange # 1174 — Christopher Eidsmoe

St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona # 4 —Tom Smith;
Burns #160, —Peggy Johnston
Community Grange # 1675 — Kevin Young
Harbor Springs Grange # 730 — Ladonna Kurburski;
Pittsfield Union Grange # 882 — Joan Hellmann;
Summit City Grange # 672 —Shirley Bowman.

Resolutions continued from page 5

3. PAYING TRIBUTE TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Michigan State Grange goes on record of extending a special **THANK YOU** to all of those that went above and beyond to help in any way to make life easier and safer for all of us during this Corona Virus Pandemic of 2020.

INFORMATION/PUBLICITY CERTIFICATES PRESENTED TO:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Studley #1174 | Summit City #672 | Torch Lake #1840 | Barnard #689 |
| West Oshtemo #1630 | Harbor Springs #730 | Burns #160 | Burr Oak #1350 |
| Carlisle #812 | Colon #215 | Community #1675 | Fern #803 |
| Fredonia #1713 | Gratiot #1898 | Home #129 | Kinney #754 |
| Maple Leaf #940 | Pittsfield Union #882 | Oceana Center #1047 | North Adrian #721 |
| Mosherville #389 | Rome #293 | Plymouth/Westland #389 | |

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
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Another State Session has come to a close. I would like to thank all our Grangers who helped to promote Community Service in their communities during the very difficult year.

Granges, let's all think about one new project/service we can do this next year for their community.

We have 25 subordinate Granges and 12 Granges submitted Community Service Reports with a total of 10,216 service hours with 3 Granges not submitting any service hours.

Congratulation Everyone!!!!

Thank you to all Granges for promoting Community Service and taking the time to complete a report and summing it to me.

2020 Michigan State Grange Community Service Winners

40 members and over

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 st Place | Fredonia Community Grange #1713 |
| 2 nd Place | Burns Grange #160 |
| 3 rd Place | None this year |

Michigan State Grange Community Service Winners

Under 40 Members

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1 st Place | Studley Grange | #1174 |
| 2 nd Place | Kinney Grange | #754 |
| 3 rd Place | Home Grange #129 | |

The NG requests our 1st through 4th place winners. Based on total number of points from the judging. Following are the Granges recognized as the top winners.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 st Place | Fredonia Community Grange #1713 |
| 2 nd Place | Studley Grange #1174 |
| 3 rd Place | Burns Grange #160 |
| 4 th Place | Kinney Grange #754 |

2020 Very Important Patron

Congratulations:

Mary LaFountain . Fredonia Grange #1713



“Thank You !!”

**to Naomi Fletcher
 For supplying the tote bags for the
 2020 Michigan State Grange
 Convention.**

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

BURR OAK GRANGE #1350 OPENS HALL DURING PANDEMIC

Burr Oak Grange #1350 has been having a sewing class every Wednesday for several months. Safety precautions are taking place. Only 8 sewers attend. Each has their own table. Also have a potluck with the State Grange rules being followed for potlucks. The session are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sewers make donations to use the hall.

In September the group donated 20 quilts to the St. Joseph County United Way for their on-line auction.



We held a three day sewing retreat Oct. 14th through the 16th from 10a.m. to 6 p.m. This event will be a fundraiser for Burr Oak Grange Sewing sessions will continue until our Council on Aging re-opens. All the sewers are COA members. COA has been closed since March.

Burr Oak Grange Master, Betty Persons made arrangements and supervises sewing classes at Burr Oak.

Donations from sewers has been a life line for our Grange.

During these trying times creativity is vital. Community Service is more important than ever.

Keep trying-don't ever give up!

Betty Persons, Burr Oak Grange Master

BURNS GRANGE #160 TRIES EVENTS IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Burns Grange #160 held a couple of events with a bit of a twist to them. Normally they hold a jambo-ree every month on the 3rd Friday at the hall. February was the last one until August when they moved it to park in Bancroft. Everyone that attended had a great time, the Grange received many compliments and a lot of people wanted another in September, however it was a bit on the cold side so that didn't happen.

The first Sunday in October and again in November they held their chicken dinners with take out meals only. Both dinners were huge successes and they were done following the rules of the pandemic.

Just remember you can do anything if you put your mind to it and look outside the box.

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120
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Worthy Master, First Lady, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 147th Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange!! It is hard to believe that it is time for yet another Michigan State Grange Session. It is going to be a different State Session that we have never experienced due to COVID 19 and needing to keep us all safe. Time sure goes by fast and for some reason this year has gone by way too fast!! I think it is because of the pandemic and not having normal life events to attend that it has gone by way too fast. I hope everyone has enjoyed my articles as at times I felt like I was just rambling on but at the time I was writing them it was what was on my mind. Agriculture in our Great State is a very important part of life and of the State Economy, and I feel honored to be the Director of the MSG Agriculture Department. It has been a very up and down year so far for Agriculture in our Country and it isn't over yet. With the virus causing shutdowns at meat processing plants earlier this year, farmers are hurting because market prices have dropped pretty low, at least for hog farmers. We the Grange, need to stand strong more than ever to let everyone know that the Grange is still alive and here to help our friends in Agriculture.

I hope you will look ahead at what classes you want to enter for the 148th State Session since there are no contests to be held this year for the Ag Department. It would have been too hard to do classes for just a one day session. I know the growing season this year has been very different than in past years so it might have been a blessing to not have classes to enter. I hope to continue to bring you information on this Department that has meant so much to our Great Organization when it was first founded! I hope everyone enjoys the State Session and their stay in Grayling!!! *Kevin Young*

Thanksgiving Weather Folklore

- ◆ Turkeys perched on trees and refusing to descend indicates snow.
- ◆ If the first snow sticks to the trees, it foretells a bountiful harvest.
- ◆ If sheep feed facing downhill, watch for a snowstorm.
- ◆ Thunder in November indicates a fertile year to come.
- ◆ If there be ice in November that will bear a duck, there will be nothing thereafter but sleet and muck.
- ◆ As November 21st, so the winter.
- ◆ When the winter is early, it will not be late.

Taken from the Old Farmer's Almanac 2020

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
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There are 25 subordinate Granges in the state and reports were received from 11 of them. Congratulations to these 11 Granges for taking the time to complete a report and send it to me as well as working on growing their membership!

These Granges completed their membership report:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Home #129 | Mosherville #1351 |
| North Adrian #721 | Rome #293 |
| Studley #1174 | Summit City #672 |
| West Oshtemo #1630 | |

These four Granges took in new members during the 2019-2020 Grange year. They did not have a net gain in membership for the year, but I am rewarding them for getting new members! Each Grange received a certificate and a 100 Grand candy bar.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Burns #160 | 7 new members |
| Fern #803 | 1 new member |
| Fredonia #1713 | 2 new members |
| Harbor Springs #730 | 3 new members |

As part of my membership program, pledge cards were mailed to every Grange in January. Burns Grange was the only one to return the completed cards. They gained 4 members during first quarter of 2020. They received a certificate and package of fancy caramels.

Rome Grange & Summit City Grange sent in their reports July 21 and July 23. They both received a package of gummy worms for being the early birds!

Thanks again to all Granges participating in the membership program! Keep up the good work and I hope to see more reports next year with lots of new members!

Membership Department – Growth thru Action Program presented by Joe Stefenoni, National Grange Membership Director.

Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 1 PM ET via Zoom.

Option to call into the program. Contact Tricia for more information on the options.