



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



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A Surprise Visit for Sister Virginia Buel

Sister Virginia Buel, a 60 year member of West Oshtemo Grange in Kalamazoo, lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma now in an assisted living facility near family. St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4 wanted to honor her with her seal but making a trip to OK was out of the question and her making a trip to Michigan wasn't going to happen either. So, we took matters a bit further and connections were made with Sister Vonnie Meritt who also lives near Oklahoma City and is a member of the Grange there. She informed us here in Michigan that she would be happy to go see Virginia and present the award to her.

The seal was sent to Vonnie, a pin was ordered by one of the members who is also a relative of Virginia's from Monroe Classic and mailed to Vonnie. The beautiful roses were a gift from the Pomona Grange. Vonnie contacted the facility and set up a time to surprise Virginia and that is just what happened. She was totally surprised. We understand they had quite the visit and learned that Virginia is still making hats and donating so she says she is still doing Community Service.

Congratulations to Virginia and a huge Thank You to Vonnie.

148TH MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 21-23, 2021

BAY VALLEY RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

2470 Old Bridge Road, Bay City, MI 48706

Reservations #: 989-686-3500/888-241-4653

Cost of rooms per night \$75.00 +11% tax

More details regarding the convention will be in the September-October issue of the Michigan Grange News.

Make sure you are getting your entries in all of the contests ready.

Reminder...All report forms which will be mailed soon: Lecturer's, Deaf Awareness, Family Activities, Membership, Junior/Youth, Community Service Report form/Notebooks are all due on **September 10th**.

Let's get them filled out and sent back to the directors ASAP!

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www.michiganstategrange.org



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July 4	Independence Day
July 7	National Tell the Truth Day
July 15	National Give Something Away Day
July 20-25	Grange Revival, Sturgis, SD
August 1st	National Friendship Day
August 10	National Lazy Day
August 19	National Soft Ice Cream Day
August 30	National Beach Day



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Bible Stories

The Bible is filled with stories of transformation. From David who found courage and strength to fight Goliath and later became king, to Zacchaeus who changed his ways after Jesus met with him, to Jonah who found courage after God intervened through the use of a large fish. These are just a few stories of people in the Bible who were transformed by God. These people did not change in just one area of their life, however. They were transformed entirely because God's Word and goodness changed their innermost being. They were able to find peace, courage, strength, and forgiveness, forever setting them on a path that God planned for them, and that was better than anything they could ever imagine. Through being transformed on the inside, their lives were transformed on the outside.

We do not only have to look at the Bible to see acts of transformation. They are all around us. When we accept God into our hearts, we are forever changed. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" When we accept Christ into our lives, He works through all the hurt, fear, anger, and past experiences that affect our daily life. He brings us healing so that we may walk forward and find joy in what God has planned for us. From the inside, we are transformed. Instead of living in sin and shame, we can live as a light of Christ.

MEMBERSHIP

Growth Through Action

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
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Welcome to summer! I hope your Grange has been able to complete the Growth through Action packet. There is a lot of good information that can help your Grange evaluate its growth potential.

June 30 was the end of the membership year. Hopefully your Grange was able to take in a new member or two. If your Grange completed the Growth through Action program, please send me a photo or email of it so you can receive credit at the Michigan State Grange session. It does not need to be 100% complete. I realize there are parts that may not pertain to every Grange.

My program year of the Growth through Action is wrapping up. Just a reminder of the parts you need to complete for credit:

- Participated in the online Growth through Action workshop in January.
- Show that the program has been completed. Photos or scans sent via email will be accepted.
- Take in a new member (or more); can be associate or subordinate. Only 1 point total possible; not based on how many members gained.
- The new member receives the obligation or degree work by August 31.
- Complete and submit the annual membership report by September 10.

I hope to see an increase in membership for Michigan this year. Of course this also means each Grange needs to do their part to get members.

Enjoy the beautiful days of summer!

Tricia

Summer has arrived

We are back to the season of the Second degree of Summer. Where the weather is warmer (well frankly hot) and gardens are growing. Rain has been an issue all over the state. Getting spotty showers. While that is still rain, we really just need a few good steady soaking rain or two to help the crops and to keep the lawns green.

Covid Restrictions

So far the state appears to be heading in the right direction with vaccinations and reaching the herd immunity. Plans are for all restrictions to be lifted July 1st. This opens up our Grange Halls and allows us to get back to our regular activities. Time to plan a "Re-Opening" celebration open house to welcome back members and to attract potential new members.

Membership Recognitions

Membership Recognitions It has come to my attention that some Granges around the state have not been presenting years of membership awards. So as a reminder the Michigan State Grange has a 10 year award and the National Grange has 25, 50, 55,60,65,70and so on year awards. All awards need to be requested through the State Secretary. After members have given any number of years to the organization, recognition awards are just a small token of showing our appreciation for all they have done over those years.

Grange Revival

I believe there is still time to join fellow Grangers across the country in the second Grange Revival being held in Sturgis, South Dakota. There are currently over 120 registered. The dates are July 20-25th. There is a bus trip to Mt. Rushmore Friday evening to watch the night lighting of the monument. A few other activities are planned throughout the week such as a corn hole tournament, Dutch oven breakfasts and dessert days, a s'mores night, bingo, quilt blocks and other random activities. Not to mention all the sites around there to see! Go to www.grangerevival.com to get more information on costs, lodging options and registration. It's gonna be

a fun time that you don't want to miss.

150th Celebration in Michigan

The committee is beginning to meet to plan a celebration of our 150th birthday. Keep watch for exciting things from this committee. There may be fundraisers coming up so that they can make this a grand celebration. I'm sure if you have an idea or suggestion, they would be willing to hear them.

State Session

With the Covid restrictions lifting, it looks like the Michigan State Grange session will go on as planned. Of course, this is being said with hopefully no other restrictions being placed between now and then. Hope to see you at Bay Valley Resort in October.

Until next time.....

HELPING THE MSG FOUNDATION

How many of you order from Amazon.com? Did you know if you go under AmazonSmile.com or smile.amazon.com (the same as Amazon.com only different??!!) you can select the Michigan State Grange Foundation as your charity and 0.5% of all eligible purchases will be added to the Foundation.

- Sign-in to smile.amazon.com or amazon-smile.com on your computer or mobile phone browser. If you don not already have an account, follow their easy directions/prompts for creating a new account.
- After logged in, go to your Account and select the option to change your charity. Select "change your charity" from the options at the bottom of the page.
- Select a new charitable organization to support, i.e. Michigan State Grange Foundation.
- Each time you shop on Amazon you must go to Smile.Amazon.com for the Foundation to receive a donation as a result of your purchase(s).

Every little bit helps!!!

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
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Who Can I Turn to for Help with my Hearing Loss?

If you or a family member might have a hearing loss, consult a qualified health professional for early and appropriate care. Several types of professionals can help. Each has a different type or training and expertise, and each can be an important part of your hearing health care.

You may want to start by talking with your primary care provider. They will likely give you a medical exam to see if an infection, injury, or other condition (such as buildup of ear wax) might be causing your hearing loss. Your primary care provider might then refer you to an otolaryngologist or other hearing health provider for more specific test and treatment.

Types of Professionals who can help you with Hearing Loss are:

A **primary care provider** is a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant who provides general health care to patients by identifying and treating common medical conditions. Primary care providers often refer patients to medical specialists when necessary. Types of primary care providers include family practitioners or general practitioners, pediatricians, geriatricians and internists.

An **otolaryngologist** is a physician who provides medical and surgical care, diagnosis and treatment of the ear, nose, throat and neck. Sometimes called an ENT, an otolaryngologist will work with you to find out why you're having trouble hearing and offer specific treatment options. They might also refer you to another hearing professional, such as an audiologist or hearing instrument specialist, to receive a hearing test and be fitted for a hearing aid.

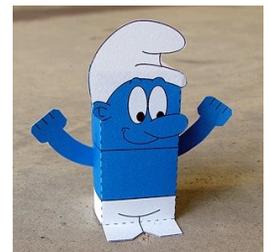
An **audiologist** has specialized training to test your hearing and identify the type and degree of hearing loss. Audiologists are not physicians, but they have a doctor of audiology graduate degree, which typically requires four years to complete after earning a bachelor's degree. They must also pass an exam and complete a clinical fellowship. Audiologists are licensed to fit and dispense hearing aids; they can also work with you and your family to adapt to hearing loss and determine which devices, including hearing aids would be most helpful.

A **hearing instrument specialist**, also known as a hearing aid specialist, is a state-licensed professional who conducts basic hearing tests, fits and dispenses hearing aids, and educates individuals and their family members about their hearing loss. The licensure requirements varies among states; most states require completing a 2-year apprenticeship.

DID YOU KNOW

Deaflympics was started in 1924 and predates the special Olympics and Paralympics. One of the rules for competing in Deaflympics is no hearing aids or cochlear implants are to be used.

The "huddle" was invented by a deaf quarterback in 1892 by Paul Hubbard who was a quarterback at Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, and didn't want the opposing teams to see his team's signs. Thus, the first huddle started, and since then the huddle has been a reoccurring part of many sports teams.



HAVE YOU OR YOUR GRANGE MADE YOUR ANNUAL DONATIONS TO THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE DEAF FUND YET?

The little blue characters, "The Smurfs" was the first animated show to have a character use Sign Language. "Smurfing In-Sign Language" is the episode that introduced the wood-elf Laconia. She taught the Smurfs, and many of those who watched the show some sign language. This was revolutionary as the technicality of producing signs in animation was not something that had ever been done before.

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This article is going to be a little different from how I usually do it. So bear with me.

There are three parts to this, and then some feelings I'd like to express.

Part 1. A couple years ago, I became a Golden Sheaf (50 year) member of the Grange. Yes, a proud moment for me, and then I remembered both of my parents, one grandmother and one great grandmother also belonged 50+ years. And ours is a five generation Grange family going back to the 1870's. Ok, so I am bragging a little but there must be a reason why multi-generation families and long-time members hold their membership. The easiest answer is fellowship. As a Grange kid I thought it was pretty cool to have so many grandparents in that white building all at one time.

Part 2. Just a few months ago at our Pomona we honored a long time (70 year) member for his service. We gave him a framed certificate, a boutonniere, a beautiful cake and had a special toast to Bob Latterner. I'm so glad we did this for him as he passed away in May. What if we had waited? For service like that you need to be recognized and saluted.

Part 3. One of our members moved out of state a few years ago, but kept her Michigan Grange membership. She has belonged 60 years and going strong. To recognize her service was a challenge. She wouldn't be coming back to Michigan, and us taking a group field trip to Oklahoma City wasn't going to happen. But, with a lot of creativity and coordination we pulled it off. The seal for 60 years was sent to OK, a beautiful pin, ordered from MI and shipped from CA to OK and with the help of a new Grange friend, a dozen red roses were ordered. Yvonne Merrit, Communication Director for the OK State Grange made the local arrangements. With all this, and hundreds of miles apart we were able to honor Virginia Buel for 60 years of membership. From all reports, she was thrilled, surprised and grateful to her Grange Brothers and Sisters for remembering her.

Now comes my feelings. Many Granges in Michigan have been lax in membership recognition. It's not that hard (or expensive) to see that our members are recognized in their Granges. In our State we even have pins for 10 years of membership.

I don't know in your Grange who could arrange this. The Secretary should have the number of years, the Lecturer could make the presentation part of the program, and Family Activities could take care of refreshments. Another reason to have a piece of cake, a scoop of ice cream and a warm handshake for the honorees.

One last thought, if we can't say thank you to honor our long-time members, how well are we treating new members? Everyone likes to be appreciated and it isn't hard or costly to say "Thank you for your dedication!"

Now that I'm done with the soap box and down from the pulpit. Please think about this.

We can do better!

Don't forget the Convention in Bay City is coming up quickly, let's do that final push to get more entries in all of our contests.

Till next time, Happy Granging!



**Burns Grange #160—
Durand Chambers
Organization of the Year
—2020**

After a years delay due to the Pandemic, the Durand Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Dinner and Awards Night on Thursday, June 17th.

Awards were given out to the Citizen of the Year, Volunteers of the Year, Business of the Year, and Organization of the Year. We

were notified last year of the award and then Covid hit and we waited patiently like all the other recipients to receive these wonderful awards.

We were presented the plaque at the left and two proclamations, one from the city and another from our State Representative and Senator.

It was certainly a great honor and we definitely appreciate it.



Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
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Summer is Here! Keep cool!

It seems like Summer began in May since we had higher than average temperatures early this year. However, I suspect we will still have high temperatures in July and August this year. It seemed like a good time to consider ways that we can all enjoy the summer months, and keep “cool”.

Incorporating even a few of these ten tips into your lifestyle can make an enormous difference in how much the heat affects your body. I found these ideas from a variety of resources.

1) Up your Vitamin C intake, as this increases your tolerance for heat by delaying sweat gland fatigue, which reduces the occurrence of heat exhaustion and prickly heat rash. A 250 mg supplement would be enough, or better yet, find natural sources such as strawberries, kale, broccoli or parsley.



2) Stick to the shade. Shade from trees is better than shade from buildings, as it releases moisture into the atmosphere to keep itself and air around it cool; whereas, buildings trap heat and radiate it back out to the environment.

3) Eat spicy food. Capsaicin, the substance in peppers that makes spicy food spicy, binds to the pain receptors in your mouth. In response, your brain interprets this as being hot, and makes you sweat, and the sweat on your skin subsequently cools you down. You can do all of this without actually raising your body temperature, making it a great way to cool down when things get hot outside.

4) Avoid ice cream. The high fat content in ice cream makes it difficult to digest. The extra energy your body uses to digest the ice cream can actually raise your body temperature a little bit. So, if you want to cool down, try a fat-free frozen dessert like sorbet or an Italian ice.

5) Sip peppermint tea. A glass of peppermint tea is a good way to make your insides feel cool and tingly, thanks to menthol, a substance in the plant that works the opposite way capsaicin does, instead tricking your body into feeling cold. You can also spray mint tea on your skin to provide both evaporative and mentholated cooling, so this beverage pulls double duty.

6) Cool your car down fast. When it's 80 degrees outside, it only takes an hour for your car to get up to 123 degrees inside. Rather than turn on the AC and walk away, or sit in the car and suffer through the heat while it cools down, you can quickly cool off your car by creating a cross-breeze. Roll down a window on the passenger side of the car. Then open and close the door opposite that window several times to quickly draw the hot air out and get your car down to a reasonable temperature with reasonable speed.

7) Eat water-rich food and drink lots of water. Seasonal produce like watermelon, cantaloupes, and cucumbers contain loads of water to help keep you hydrated. In addition, they're easy to digest.



Durand Boy Scout Troop 84 (which Chris, Connie, Marc and Cory Johnston are a big part of) bussed tables at the 2021 Annual Durand Chamber of Commerce Dinner on June 17th. They all done a wonderful job and received many compliments and thanks for being so efficient, polite, and helpful. They have also been booked to help at the 2022 Dinner in March next year.



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE PINS

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.

Summer Is Here !!!!!

It has been over 400 days since we were able to fully enjoy the company of our extended family and friends. We now can resume our monthly Grange meetings and community service activities to the fullest.

As you are working on your community service projects, I hope you were able to expand and add a new project this year.

It's never too late to give a helping hand to your community.

Here are a couple of ideas:

- Read a book to a person who is visually impaired.
- Tutor a child during summer break.
- Volunteer to help with Vacation Summer School in your area.
- Continue to collect coupons for local food pantries and shelters.

No project is too small when helping others.

Special awards were outlined in last month's Michigan Grange News. Refer to it if you are thinking about nominating a special person in your Grange.

August 31st marks the end of our Community Service year. **Your Community Service Report is due on September 10th, 2021. That means it needs to be delivered to the State Community Service Director on or before that date.** (If special arrangements need to be made for the delivery of your Community Service Report please contact me.)

Mary Ann Rocco

145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, Michigan 49014

(Just a little note, when mailing your materials please put **Drive** on the address. There is also Beadle Lake Road and a Beadle Lake in the same zip code.) 269 209-6640 roccomaryann@yahoo.com

Here is a review of information and organization of our Community Service Report.

The Notebook Reports

- Please place the summary report at the beginning of the Notebook. It is required!
- Please do not send more than one Notebook. Notebooks cannot be larger than a

2 inch binder

- Videotapes and computer discs cannot be used in place of a report for judging.

Organize the Notebooks.

- Tell the your story as you organize your projects
- Group the projects together
- Keep items that support your projects, like thank you letters and newspaper articles, with or without photos.
- Simplify your notebook by selecting the best couple of photos for each project.
- Be concise and stick to the point. More is not always better.

Ways to Organize

- Organize by New Projects and Continuing Projects
- Or-Organize in chronological order from the beginning to the end of the year
- Or -Organize by the largest projects to the smallest projects
- Keep the page clean and concise
- List all project at the beginning of the book (Index)
- Donations for a project should be noted
- If tabs are use make sure they are secured so they don't fall out
- Remember the notebook maximum size is a 2-inch binder.

Something to think about

- Each State Grange may submit one nominee for each category, Fire-fighter, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year. A Dedicated Worker and a Very Important Person Award.
- Nominations need to be turned in with your Community Service Report.

The National Grange website has information on the Do's and Don'ts of a Community Service Report.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 10th, 2021.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!



Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120
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Wow July!? The first 6 months of 2021 have gone by way too fast! I am glad that we are slowly getting back to a normal way of life after that nasty year we left behind in 2020. We got our garden in late this year but I am sure with lots of water and care it will come along nicely. We didn't get our potatoes dug last fall and I couldn't believe they survived the winter and are growing again this year! Can't wait to see what they produce for us and the plants are a good 3 feet tall. I hope everyone that planted a garden kept in mind the Agriculture Department classes for the 2021 State Session. We are able to have classes back this year for everyone to enter. I really hope we can get lots of entries in all departments to show that the Grange is still alive in Michigan even if the Pandemic of 2020 made it hard to do much of anything as an organization!

We are a few short months now from our 2021 State Session that is being held at the Bay Valley Resort near Bay City. I haven't heard as of yet but I am hoping we will be back to a normal State Session with floor work and songs and great fellowship as it sure didn't seem like a Michigan State Grange Session last year doing everything in one day due to the restrictions during the pandemic.

Fair season this year is back to normal thank goodness!! I think we all will be happy for the Youth all across our State that get to exhibit at their local County Fair once again this year. I haven't heard of any Fair not doing their normal as my County Fair, Berrien County Youth Fair, announced the entertainment lineup for our 75th Anniversary week in August. I have 3 pigs and 2 market goats in the back yard for my niece and one nephew. The oldest nephew decided he couldn't devote time for his last year at the Fair and has sadly moved on to being an adult and working hard to earn a living.

I subscribe to the Farmer's Exchange weekly paper and there was an article in the June 11th edition titled "Michigan Floriculture Sales Top \$500 Million". It is interesting to see that in 2020, during the pandemic, that Michigan ranked 3rd in the Nation for value of wholesale sales of floriculture products behind California and Florida. This placing is based off of data reported from Michigan's 549 commercial growers (with \$10,000 or more in gross sales). It is

awesome to see that Michigan out shines most of the Nation when it comes to Agriculture Crops along with flowers and plants.

In another article from the Farmer's Exchange on June 4th it discussed Wool Is at the Center of Product Innovation. One of the farms they interviewed for this article is in Coldwater Michigan. The name of the farm is Mitten State Sheep and Wool. They have been raising sheep for 23 years and currently raise Border Leicester, Tunis, Bluefaced Leicester, Romney, Corriedale and some fiber crosses which all produce very nice fleeces. The Mitten State farm uses their own wool in the woolen mill right on their farm to process their own fleeces. They make and sell dryer balls and I am thinking of ordering some to see just how well they work. They said in the article that these all wool dryer balls replace the need for dryer sheets as they not only help the dryer absorb moisture to dry the clothes faster but also help with static electricity that can be created in the drying process. Check out their website at www.mittenstatewool.com for more information and a link to their etsy shop to purchase their products they offer.

Here is hoping your gardens are growing or will be and that your harvest is bountiful. Until the next MGN....

A special note from the State Secretary...

Membership Awards

Recently the National Grange have changed the certificates for the 25 years of membership. From now on we will be using the new ones. These will be a lot like the 50 year certificates. Of course the price has gone up as well. The cost will be \$10.00 for each one.

There is also a price increase in the seals. They are \$3.00 each.

Soon (within the next few days) Secretaries of each Grange will be receiving new forms to fill out for the awards.

Please destroy all other forms you may have from prior mailings.

If you use the wrong form and send the wrong amount of money, you will be billed for the remaining amount prior to the awards being shipped. Feel free to make copies of the new forms if you need more....color of paper is not important.