



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



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GRANGE MONTH APRIL, 2021 LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL MASTER

Brothers and Sisters,

We are so excited as we draw closer to Grange Month 2021 and we hope you are, too!

The past year has truly been a test of so many of our Grange values – faith, hope, charity and fidelity – and an exercise in perseverance. Last year, we introduced the theme “Cultivating Connections,” hoping Granges would use it to highlight the many connections made by being part of our organization. From fellowship and a sense of belonging to networking opportunities and a greater connection with our land, our food and our world, “Cultivating Connections” can be interpreted in a multitude of ways.

As the pandemic hit and so many of our cultural norms were turned on their heads, the sense of connection became so much more important, and the efforts to cultivate them essential. We are again using “Cultivating Connections” as our theme, and we encourage you to find ways to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic, the divisive political climate and all the other problems you may face in our world today. The Grange grew from a founding idea of connecting a fractured public and cultivating those relationships to ensure we move forward together for a better future. We are called on to do that again today in our communities in large and small ways.

It is also imperative that we cultivate our connections within the Grange. I encourage each of you to reconnect with fellow members to renew that sense of fraternity and welcome; to strengthen bonds with neighboring Granges in your Pomona; to connect each member with your State Grange and National Grange by providing details on how to get newsletters, announcements and more. There are so many opportunities and resources available not just for you but for the future members of your Grange. Creating links or cultivating the relationship you established by taking the oath of membership will provide you great benefit and show you just how much your Grange membership can mean in these uncertain times. Take the time to learn about contests and programs, changes to bylaws, recommendations for meetings and ceremonies, that can help your members grow to their greatest manhood and womanhood and develop or share talents, and so much more.

I’m calling on each of you to be an essential resource for your members and your communities and live up to the legacy of the generations of Grangers who came before you. Invite your community to follow your lead and blaze the trail to a brighter 2021 and beyond, beginning in this Grange Month.

Fraternally, Betsy Huber, Master, National Grange

**TAKE NOTICE: A CHANGE IN THE 2021 FAMILY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM:
Information is on page 5 Disregard the information in the 2021 program booklet.**

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Grange Month	Experts Say?? Planned Projects	FA Program Corrections	Spring is on the way!!!	Congratulations Robert!!	Spring Yet???



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- March 14 Daylight Savings Time
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 Spring Begins
- March 28 Palm Sunday
- APRIL GRANGE MONTH**
- April 4 Easter
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 30 Arbor Day



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Experts Say??

What Do the Experts Say?

Boston Globe columnist, Jeff Jacoby, writes of the “uncanny ability of experts to get things hopelessly, cataclysmically wrong.” A quick glance through history shows that he might be right. The great inventor, Thomas Edison, once declared that talking movies would never replace silent films. In 1928, Henry Ford declared that people were becoming too intelligent to ever have another war. Countless other predictions have badly missed the mark.

Only one Person is completely reliable. The religious leaders of Jesus’ day claimed to have the truth. They thought they knew what the promised Messiah would be like. But Jesus cautioned them, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life.” Then Jesus pointed out how they were missing the heart of the matter. “These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” ~John 5:39-40~

No matter what scary predictions we hear these days, don't be alarmed. Our confidence remains in the One God at the very heart of the Scriptures. Only He has a firm grip on us and on our future.

Community Service

Planned Projects

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Wishing everyone a Happy Saint Patrick Day! and a Blessed Easter.

It is hard to believe that a year ago this month Covid19 shut down our cities and Granges. Many of our Granges still are not holding their regular meetings. For the first time in almost a year Fredonia Grange is planning on holding a regular meeting this March.

Fredonia Grange lost Bonnie Rocco, a 25-year member, due to Covid19 in January. Bonnie was very involved in the Dictionary Program for many years. She loved seeing the joy the children experienced when they received their dictionaries. Bonnie was instrumental in hosting tours of the Houston School during Fair Week. She was also a long time supporter of the Relay for Life program. Her helping hands and great smile will be missed.

I am hoping everyone is trying to do some new and/or revised community services projects during these times.

Here are a couple of ideas you might want to consider:

Deliver snacks to hospitals or senior care facilities.

Help with Spring Cleanup for a neighbor.

Make Birthday cards for children in a homeless shelter.

Continued on Page 7

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Welcome to Spring!!!!

Well almost, we can hope can't we. In a few short weeks, the snow will be melting away, grass will be turning green, tulips will start to emerge from dormancy, and a new life will come to Michigan. Then the mosquitos will return and we will be waiting for the first hard frost to send them back to hiding. We have to pick which we prefer the frozen tundra or the vibrant summer... I am always excited for Spring when we can get back outside and enjoy the fresh air that doesn't slap you in the face from the freezing temps. Yet I enjoy the thoughts of relaxing through the Winter. But seriously, as we prepare to get back to our favorite outdoor activities, and begin to watch Earth spring back to life, I am hopeful that our Grange halls can open, our meetings can resume, and life as we knew it returns to some sort of normalcy.

As the stipulations allow and we are able to open our Grange halls, let's pack them especially in April during Grange month and remind our friends and neighbors we are still here and still serving the needs of our communities. National Grange is again offering materials for Grange Month with the theme "Cultivating Connections". You can go to their website to get flyers and such to advertise an open house or an activity you might have planned. Remember this is usually when we honor those special people in the community with deserving awards. The Community Service program promotes the VIP (Very Important Patron) award for Grange members as well as Dedicated Worker for a member in your community. Also remember there are awards for Police, Teacher and Firefighter of the Year that are part of the National Grange Community Service program! National Grange National Grange announces a new Membership and Leadership Director. Amanda Brozana-Rios is making the leap from the Communications Directors post to membership and will still be working on the Good Day magazine publication. Joe Stefanoni, the former Membership Director, has recently accepted a position outside the organization, however he still serves as the Overseer of the California State

Grange. Kennedy Gwin, from the state of Washington has been working as an intern with Amanda, is now taking over the Communications department in the role of Communications Manager. She will continue to work with Amanda as she gains her way in the new position. Congratulations to Amanda and Kennedy, we look forward to seeing what you have to offer in your new positions, and we wish Joe good luck in his future endeavors.

150th Anniversary Committee

I'm pleased to announce Rich Hazen has agreed to chair the committee to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. He'll be getting his committee together to come up with ideas for this celebration in 2 years. If he should happen to contact you for your assistance with the celebration, I hope you will consider participating. As a reminder, we still have plenty of pins for sale that will help raise funds for his committee to put to good use. Please consider purchasing one, two or more so they can put together a special celebration.

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.



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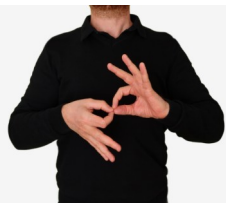
Zoom Addresses Accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Zoom Has added accessibility features that will let users with hearing loss arrange windows to see a sign language interpreter better while viewing presentations.



Zoom has introduced features to improve accessibility to its video conferencing service for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The latest capabilities spotlight or make stationary multiple screens for participants instead of one. The pin and the spotlight will make it easier for participants who are deaf or hard of hearing to place a sign language interpreter along side the presenter. The positioning helps them understand what is said while viewing the presentation.



People can also rearrange the windows that show up on their grid, allowing users with hearing loss to place the sign language interpreter in the best corner for them.

While the changes improve overall accessibility, they are somewhat limited in scope. For example, presenters can show only 9 people at a time to pin two windows and presenters can pin only 9 windows themselves.

In addition to the pin and rearranging options, presenters can overlay themselves over their presentations.

Eric Bailey of digital accessibility advocacy group Ally Project said seeing two speakers at once is vital. This is especially important for situations where interpreters are required, such as government briefings.

Having accessibility in video conferencing services is not new to Zoom. Competitors Weber and Teams have had similar functionality for a while. Weber has all of the functionality that Zoom just introduced. Teams lacks a rearrange option.

Jon Henner, a deaf assistant professor at the University of North Carolina said the new Zoom features would make it easier to do his work. He regularly

attends conferences and panels, does workshops, teaches classes and holds meetings – all of which require video conferencing.

Henner said he has some qualms with the closed captioning Zoom provides. As a deaf person, he would like other ways to designate that he wished to speak. The hand-raising option is not the best when non-deaf people are talking over each other. Henner added that he prefers an option that would light up windows of people who wish to say something.

In Zoom, closed captions in real time can be added to meetings for attendees who are deaf or hard of hearing. To do so a CART (Communication Access Real-Time Transcriber) reporter from a third-party provider. Many use ACS (Alternative Communication Service). The CART reporter can caption directly to Zoom.



For captions to be directly connected into the Zoom meeting, the meeting host has to activate closed captioning in Zoom and assign a captioner.

Some attendees may request American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for a meeting and need to hire an (ASL) interpreter from a third-party provider.

For meetings, the interpreter must join the meeting as a participant. The host must ensure that the deaf person is able to “pin” the interpreters in order to see the interpreter at all times. Alert that all the participants that an ASL interpreter is provided.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau Deaf people make up about 3.6% or 11.5 million people.

Zoom first unveiled the accessibility features August 31, the International Day of Sign Languages. The company developed the features with the help of the Ally Project.

The Curse of Auto Correct

Did you know that the most common auto correct substitute for the word ‘Deaf’ just happens to be the word ‘Dead’. Yep, you’ve guessed it, this slight error can lead to such text conversations.

“I have to tell you that I’m a bit dead.” Or my favorite *“I was-born dead.”*

If this happens to you, expect the text equivalent of a long silent pause....

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RED ALERT!! Danger Will Robinson! Those lines by the robot of peril on the old Lost in Space might apply a little here. In your last issue of the Grange News, in the Program Book included, the program for the Family Activities Department was one from 2 years ago, **please disregard that.** The one printed here on this page is the **official 20-21** Family Activities program and is also available on the web site. **PLEASE** be aware of this and keep this issue as well. Any questions give us a call. I'm sure there will be none of those evil space aliens the robot talked about, but we don't want any misunderstanding or problems in October.

Hopefully with spring we'll all be a little more able to get back to our Grange routine. Hopefully, everyone will remember what night the meetings re and proper procedure. I know when a month goes by with no Grange, I really feel like I'm missing something?

Just asking...

- ◆ What is the speed of dark?
- ◆ How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- ◆ What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- ◆ Why is it that psychics have to ask you your name?
- ◆ If you could travel a the speed of light, would your headlights still work?

"If you think dogs can't count, try putting 3 dog biscuits in your pocket and give him only 2 of them?"

FAMILY ACTIVITIES
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**HOME ARTS CONTESTS
 PROGRAM YEAR 2020-2021**

Sponsored by: The Family Activities Department

Anyone who is 14 and older are encouraged to enter any or all of the categories:

General Rules:

1. All entries must be labeled with an official label and entry forms must be completed prior to entering in competition. Contact your Family Activities Chairman for labels.
2. Workmanship must be that of entrant.
3. **Only one entry per class:** (classes —knitting, crocheting, clothing, etc.)

4. Adult entries will receive ribbons for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places and all entries will receive a participation ribbon.
5. Junior entries will receive ribbons for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place plus a \$3 cash prize for 1st prize, \$2 cash prize for 2nd place and \$1 cash prize for 3rd place. All entries will receive a participation ribbon.
6. Best of Show award will be awarded by the Judges. All entries will be eligible to receive this honor.

Adult Home Arts Categories

All Grange members 14-100+ (Men and Women) are encouraged to enter any or all of this year's categories.

I Baked Goods (men and women)

- *Must include recipe, typed or legibly printed.
- *Must be made from scratch, no mixes.
- *Display should be on a disposable plate or pan.
- *Judging will be based on appearance, texture and flavor.

- A. Cherry Pie (from scratch)
- B. Angel Food Cake or Sponge Cake (from scratch)
- C. Quick Breads (from scratch)
- D. Peanut Butter Cookies (from scratch)

II Homemade Candies

- A. Any type of fudge (from scratch)
- B. Any other type of candy (from scratch)

III Canning

- A. Pickles (any variety)
- B. Salsa (any style)

IV Dried Foods

- A. Dried Meats (jerky, summer sausage, etc.)
- B. Dried Fruits or Vegetables

V Knitting

- A. Any knitted item

VI Crocheting

- A. Any crocheted item

VII Quilting (open to members and non-members)

- A. Any form of quilting

VIII Clothing

- A. Decorated T-shirt (anything)
- B. Apron (any style or format)

IX. Pillow Cases

- A. Any format

X. Greeting Cards

- A. Any holiday

XI. Woodworking

- A. any item (must be small enough to display on a table)

XII. Garden Sparklers

- A. Any style (check on line for description and ideas)

XIII. Antique Home

- A. Grandma's Kitchen or Home items
- B. Grandad's Tool Shed

XIV. Miscellaneous Crafts

- A. Anything goes! Any article that does not fall into an existing class

JUNIOR BAKING CONTEST

Division I: Ages 5-9

Division II: Ages 10-14

- A. No Bake Cookies

Be sure to check out other contests for Juniors in the Lecturer's, Juniors and Deaf Awareness Programs.

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Happy Spring!

As I write this article, we have just had our biggest snowfall of the year, and schools are all closed in our area, so it is a little hard to focus on the coming of Spring! However, the sun is shining bright, and that helps get me in the focus of the coming season.

We are finally getting the COVID-19 vaccine distributed and given, so there is certainly hope for 2021 to be a different kind of year than 2020, and I suspect this year that our view of Spring will be much more filled with hope than last year when the COVID pandemic was just beginning to hit, and with it lots of uncertainty. I hope that many of you will have already taken advantage of the vaccine that is being given and that others will take advantage as soon as vaccine is available. I felt a sense of relief after receiving my second shot, although know that vigilance is still necessary for us to get to herd immunity. It does feel like we are turning a corner to new possibilities in many areas of our lives. On the plus side, the pandemic has provided a time of innovation, reflection, and motivation to do things different ways. Indeed, a lot of learning about how we can do things differently has occurred in many areas.

In a recent edition of the National Grange “Patrons Chain” was a new idea that was called a “Grange Program Idea”. It can be done as part of an in-person or virtual meeting, or individually. Their description: “The National Grange Communications and Membership Departments have teamed with the Grange Youth and Junior Grange departments to create a program called “Love Letters to the Future of the Grange.” Notes will be collected and saved in a time capsule. Select notes will be released every few years, and all contents will be fully released in 2050. At an upcoming meeting, encourage every member to write a short note or letter to those who will be Grange members in 2050. Take time to talk about what your hopes are for the Grange of the future and what you’d like them to know about your Grange experience that will make them fall in love with the organization. The deadline to have your notes included in the time capsule is the 155th Annual Convention in November, 2021. All notes should be sent to: National Grange, 1616 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006, ATTN: Amanda, or email to communications@nationalgrange.org.” Although not discussed yet in Michigan, it is possible that we will generate some of these notes at our State Convention in October.

There are a lot of holidays in March and April, so along with the happiness of Spring’s arrival is the arrival of some well-known holidays, and a few others I learned about.

March special dates include: March 14 when Daylight Savings time begins, St. Patrick’s Day on March 17, March 20 is the first day of Spring, and Holy Week (Christian) and Passover (Jewish) begins March 28. On the less well-known side is March 9 – National Get Over It Day, the week of March 7-13 is National Procrastination Week, March 14 – National Pi Day, and March 15 – National Napping Day.

April holidays include April 1 as April Fool’s Day, Easter and the end of Passover on April 4, and April 13 is the first day of Ramadan (Muslim). Additional holidays in April include April 2 as National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, April 17 is National Ellis Island Family History Day, and April 27 is National Tell a Story Day.



EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 4TH

Just a little Easter Trivia...

Easter is a “moveable feast” and does not have a fixed date, however, it is always on a Sunday. Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th. The date of Easter is related to the full Moon. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the paschal full Moon on or just after the vernal equinox.

Community Service cont'd from page 2

Bake cookies for your local food pantry.
Arrange to read to seniors in a care facilities using FaceTime.

Community Services can be as big or as personal as you want.

Lets take a look at what our Community Service reports should include,

The Notebook Reports:

- ◆ The summary report should be placed at the beginning of the Notebook. This form is required!
- ◆ Material should be organized. Suggested ways to submit the Notebook is to have the projects grouped together by the size of the project, chronologically or have your Notebook read like a book. This is your opportunity to tell the story of your Grange in a neat and concise manner.
- ◆ 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.

Projects:

- ◆ Describe the project(s) that will answer the Who? What? Where? When? Why? And How?
- ◆ Why did you choose this project? What was your goal? How did you accomplish the project
- ◆ Include the details of the work. Were there special committees? Did it take cooperation of other groups? How many Grangers and non-Grangers were involved? What did you accomplish? Describe your successes.
- ◆ Include support materials used such as publicity, pictures, news articles & letters.
- ◆ Did you overcome obstacles? Did you record what you would do differently?
- ◆ Would you recommend this type of project to other Granges?
- ◆ Keep the report concise. Include only material that directly impacts the projects you are explaining.
- ◆ On the Project List pages: List the projects, the approximate number of hours spent on each project. List the number of Grangers and non-Grangers who assisted with the project. If more space is needed use additional pages.

Community Service Reports are due September 10th, 2021.

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Robert Latterner Honored for 75 Years



Pictured above: Robert Latterner, along with his daughter Lois Hicks and the beautiful Cornucopia cake to commemorate Bob's 75 years of membership with West Oshtemo Grange #1630.

Also pictured Mary Beth Bower, St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Master and State Grange Pomona presented Bob Latterner with special recognition of his 75 years as a Granger. Tom Smith, State Grange Executive Committee members and Co-Director of Family Activities read the certificate prior to presentation and proposed a special toast to Bob. Also present was Kevin Young, State Grange Treasurer and Agriculture Director.

Congratulations Robert!!

ST. JOSEPH/CASS/KALAMAZOO POMONA #4

We're not great in numbers, but we are still trying to do great things for others! The St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4 is actively working on monthly community service projects to help others in our area.

In October, personal hygiene items were collected, and the delivered to Keystone Place, a homeless shelter in Centreville (St. Joseph County).

In November, we brought food stuffs which were taken to Salvation Army in Niles (Cass County).

And in January glove, mittens, and scarves were gathered to be taken to the Gospel Mission (Kalamazoo County).

This should show that you can help make this a little better world for others less fortunate, even in you don't have great numbers on your membership rolls, attendance at meetings or a big treasury. You just need the desire to help others.

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Is it Spring yet??!! This winter hasn't been too bad until we hit February and then we have been seasonably colder than average. The temperatures have not gotten above 25 at the highest but at least we haven't been below zero other than at maybe for nighttime lows. We are just not used to have normal winter weather!! It is supposed to start warming up around February 19th when it is to start getting into the upper 20s for the daily highs. The snow has been somewhat light here but what we get doesn't really melt too quickly because of the cold temperatures. At least we have had the moisture needed for the crops when the farmers start planting in the spring. 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 in your Program Book. Be sure to check out the Program Book for all the class details and rules. I kept all of the classes from last State Session as we were not able to do contests at the 2020 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! 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.

I have been seeing plenty of communications from the National Grange lately regarding items from the new Administration on how they are starting to lay out their plans for all of their departments. No matter what side of the aisle you stand with, please keep a clear mind and do your research on the issues so you are well informed. We are all in this together and we must remember why the

Grange was first started by our founding Fathers. I am happy to see that Michigan will be represented by Debbie Stabenow as she was selected as the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Please feel free to contact Senator Stabenow if you feel there are things that she should know about from your area regarding her committee. I have done this before through the National Grange and the Michigan Townships Association and I received acknowledgement of my concerns.

I look forward to this year we have just started as things keep unfolding for our Nation to hopefully return to somewhat normal living once again. Please keep doing your part to keep yourself, your family, your friends and your communities safe and healthy. Let's show our communities more than ever before what the Grange stands for – Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity!!

MEMEMBESHIP

Membership Growth

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Welcome to spring! Or let's hope it will be arriving soon!

I want to congratulate the following Granges for participating in the Growth through Action workshop held in January.

Burns #160 Fern #803 Home #129 Studley #1174

Even though many Granges missed the workshop, there is still the potential to participate in the membership program this year. You will not be eligible for the total 5 points (participating in the workshop was one of the points) but it is still worth your time to complete the program.

The PowerPoint presentation as well as the Participant Packet from the Growth through Action workshop have been added to the Michigan State Grange website. Please take the time to review these two pieces of information. If you have questions about any of this, please reach out. I am even willing to do a one-on-one session with your Grange.

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 2019-2020 Grange year. Keep up the good work!

Gratiot #1898 2 members Maple Leaf #940 5 members

Hopefully you have taken the time to read the information I provided in the Program Book. I believe this Growth through Action workshop can be helpful to Granges that are willing to put in the work.

Wishing you a happy spring! *Tricia*