



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVIII NO. 1

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Michigan School for the Deaf Christmas Giving
December 16, 2021



**2021-2022 PROGRAM BOOK INSIDE
PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP !!**

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(USPS 345-580)

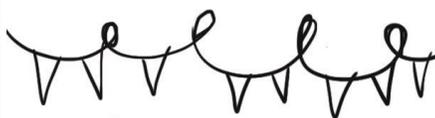
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Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 2	Groundhog Day
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day
Feb. 21	President's Day



Let's celebrate
Something today

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Chaplain

If You're Happy ...

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If You're Happy and You Know It...

How do you show you're happy?

If you're a cat, you purr. If you're a dog, you wag your tail. And if you're a rabbit, you bust out your best binky moves. You read that right — binky. When rabbits are happy, they do this crazy kind of move called a binky. Each bunny has its own binky style, but it's a kind of jumping, midair twist with a kick and a little hop or two on the landing. Some bunnies' binkies can reach almost three feet in the air!

If you watch a bunny binky, you can't help but be happy too.

So back to that first question: How do you show your happiness? Sure, there are tough days, but there are also wonderful days when everything seems to go your way. You wake up to your favorite breakfast, ace the test, and find an extra dollar in your pocket. There are days when God blesses you with a chance to help a friend or the opportunity to learn something new about Him. And there are so-so days that are still amazing because you get to share them with Him.

So how do you let the world know life is good? Smile, sing, whistle, or dance — whatever says "happy" to you.

Just be sure to thank the One who gave you all those reasons to be happy.

Praise Him, say a prayer of thanks, and tell someone how good God is to you. And hey, if you feel like it, bust out a binky or two — that's what the bunnies do!

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad today! — Psalm 118:24

"Raised Right Here"

2021-22 Grange Year Theme



Good Day! Magazine The price is \$16 for Grange members. Non-Grange members is \$28 with the price including a 1 -one year e-membership. You can receive the magazine that's full of features that affect Rural America. If you already subscribe it has been made easy to renew your subscription. Go online to renew and there

you could setup for auto-renewal, so you won't have to remember to renew next year. Go to www.nationalgrange.org, select "NEWS" tab, go down to "GOOD DAY! MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION" tab and fill out the order form or you can mail your subscription into National Grange, 1616 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, Attn: Good Day! TM. Include the following:

Name: _____
 Renewal _____
 Street, PO Box: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 Zip: _____
 Primary Grange & #: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone #: _____

HAPPY READING!!

Changes

In this issue of the MGN, you'll find the program book. I encourage you to take a look at the Masters portion of the program book. There have been changes made to the Gold Star Grange Award. These changes are nothing to get excited about as many of the changes were just updates and others were out of necessity. I also believe that the changes will be more suitable for Granges of today. And be sure to check out the changes made in the other programs as well.

National Session

As many of you have heard by now, our trip to National was nothing short of a typical Grange trip. While we were enroute to Wichita, we were delayed by about 6 hours on the side of the road in the middle of Kansas, with a blown engine in my truck. We were hauling a U-Haul trailer with the National Grange belongings, and we were just waiting for a ride. On a bright note, having been in Grange for so long I have come to know many people across the country, after a text message to the Kansas State Grange Master and National Grange Priest Archon (at the time, now High Priest of Demeter) Roger Bostwick he contacted Oklahoma State Grange Master Billy Shufeldt and they were shortly on their way 2.5 hour drive to come rescue us and the trailer. Long story short, my truck has a new engine, (those are not cheap!!) I have been re-elected Gatekeeper of the National Grange, and the rest of the convention went off without a hitch. Connie, the boys and I left to retrieve the truck on Thanksgiving Day, and two years to the date of purchase we picked our truck up from a dealership.

Resolution

One item to note is the resolution presented to the National Grange delegate body regarding selling the National Grange Headquarters in Washington, D.C. that we had discussed at our State Session did pass. The National Executive Committee now has the task of looking into options of how to sell and where to relocate the headquarters within a certain time frame. I would like to thank you for your input on how best to represent Michigan Granges in that vote. It was a difficult decision, but one that needed to be made.

Winter

Yes, it has finally arrived in Michigan. As we are settling in for the long cold months, take some time to begin planning for the warmer months. Start planning what your Grange is looking to accomplish in the next year, think big, think outside the box, think about what other organizations we can work with to take on those big projects. Everybody is looking to partner with someone else to help defray the costs, maybe if you help them this year with a project they are working towards you can build the bridge for your future projects. Make the connections now while everyone is in the planning stages for the year to come.

Congratulations to the new National Grange Officers**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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Wow! What a day! On December 16, Peggy Johnston, Sharon Popler, Phil and I delivered the gifts to the students at the Michigan School for the Deaf. It was different not being able to have the pizza party and the other activities that are usually involved. We did, however, got to see the students that were at the school and get pictures of most of them with their gifts. With the Covid 19 they were not able to open their gifts at that time and we could only see 2 or 3 at a time. I do want to thank the Granges and Grangers who participated this year. They were: Barnard Grange #689, the Claudia Libbey family, Burns Grange #160, Gratiot Grange #1898, Community Grange #1675, Kinney Grange #754, Mid MI Pomona Grange #61, North Adrian Grange #74, Burr Oak Grange #1350, Fredonia Grange #1713, Home Grange #129, Studley Grange #1174, Ted and Helen Mudd and Trisha Eidsmoe, St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona #4, Colon Grange #315, Maria Lopez, Mosherville Grange #1351, Oceana Center Grange #1047 and Plymouth/Westland Grange #389.

It was different as things were “on hold” for so long but we made it through thanks to the efforts of many. I want to thank Cathy St. James, the secretary of the school for helping me coordinate the program this year. We got a late start but with cooperation we made it. Hopefully next year things will be back to normal. Again thanks!!

As this year draws to a close, Phil and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy New Year! Stay well!
(There just might be more pictures in the next issue)



Such a wonderful program! Sure hope we can do the party next year!

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Happy New Year! Here's hoping '22 will be filled with success for your Grange as well as for all of us in our daily lives.

In this issue of your Grange News is the program and contests for Family Activities as well as all other departments. Be sure to look this over, as all of us have some talent to show in the various departments. We **need participation** from our Granges and Grangers to justify having the contests. **We're counting on you!**

With State Grange's 150th birthday coming up shortly, gains in every aspect of our Grange work should be our goal to strive for!

Please save the program book in this issue so that throughout the year you can refer to it for details. And as always, we're only a text, email or call away we'd love to hear from you!

I was at a dinner a while back, when a diner at another table began to choke. He survived, but it got me thinking about it and I got this information from the National Safety Council.

They said choking is the fourth leading cause of unintentional death. It is common in the elderly as well as in infancy.

Here are some tips they provided in handling choking incidents

- ◆ DO encourage the person to try to cough to dislodge the object causing the choking.
- ◆ DON'T ask the person if he or she is alright. Instead, ask them if choking is occurring so you can take proper action.
- ◆ DO look for inability to talk, difficulty breathing or noisy breathing. These are often good signs of choking .
- ◆ DON'T delay in calling for Emergency Services before you take action yourself, or have someone else call for first aid.
- ◆ DON'T engage in behavior s that may lead to choking. Avoid talking and laughing when eating. Serve foods that are bite size and don't rush meals. Serve the elderly softer foods cut into smaller pieces, as dry mouth and dentures can impede a person's ability to swallow.

A wise person once said, "Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."

TRIVIA BITS:



Pomace is the name for the leftover skin, seeds, pulp and stems that remain after grapes have been pressed to make wine. Finding ways to dispose of the millions of tons of Pomace produced by the global wine industry each year is an ongoing struggle. Some is re--pressed to make antioxidant cosmetic grape seed oil. Skins and residue may be used to produce potassium bitartrate, known to bakers as cream of tartar.



Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
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[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

I am not sure about you, but writing “Happy New Year” made me think - wow! Another year gone by. The last couple of years, due to a multiplicity of circumstances, have been difficult in many ways. I have previously written about planning in this first quarter of the year. However, one thing I believe that we have learned in the last couple of years is that we need to be willing and able to adjust plans - to be flexible. For some of us, lack of control of circumstances and uncertainty have been difficult to handle, and perhaps both our physical and mental states were impacted. Not only has this impacted our personal lives, but also our families, our Granges, our communities, our state, nation, and even the whole world.

In the area of planning – for ourselves and within the Grange – it would seem that broad goals we wish to achieve, with options for ways to achieve those goals might be more pertinent to the state of things before us. We still can plan a basic schedule out for the year with the expected activities, but we might want to consider some options (different ways than in the past) of how we might achieve our goals. Events alone don’t, however, define success. Interactions amongst people involved in events is a major factor leading to success.

One area that the media has impacted for us individually is our attitudes. Conflict and negativity seem to have increased in the past two years, perhaps somewhat naturally, but expanded as a result of constant media writing about “bad” news”. During the holiday season, there seems to be a bit more positivity. As Willie Nelson once said, “Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you’ll start having positive results.” I have a feed on my FaceBook page regarding positivity, and it helps me think if I am looking at the world with a negative mindset. I found another quote that I especially like, as we move forward doing some things a bit differently than in the past. Mahatma Gandhi said: “Be the change that you wish to see in the world,” Since we cannot control everything around us, why bemoan that? Instead, consider what each of us can change in our own views and attitudes, being more hopeful and positive towards directions of our goals. Attitudes are contagious, so it is especially important for leaders to have positive attitudes as groups like Granges move forward.

Included with this Michigan Grange News is the Program Booklet for the year that includes information regarding the departments of the Michigan State Grange and, where relevant, the contests that are available for participation this year. Make sure you save this and refer to it throughout the year. The Lecturer’s contests are similar to the past. Photography is always the most popular contest, so this contest continues, with several new categories to consider. The Creative Writing contest and the Public Speaking contests continue as well, with new topics this year. A new contest last year – Family Heritage – continues this year. Previous Quarterly Lecturer’s newsletters have included examples of potential entries for the Family Heritage contests for anyone that needs a visual of what an entry might look like. One does not need access to genealogy resources to enter these contests. Many families have old pictures of family members, as well as many new photos. Using some of these photos to create a Family Photo Story – be it of current living generations, or a combination of living and past generations, can help organize some of these photos. More details will be included in future Lecturer’s

Quarterly Bulletins that your Lecturers receive. Have a wonderful year ahead, and avoid the Winter weather doldrums by completing an entry early for one of the Lecturer’s Program contests!

“Even the strongest blizzards start with a single snowflake.”

—Sara Raasch

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand...”

—Edith Sitwell

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
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Happy New Year!!! Sending you Warm Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season. Lets hope 2022 is a time of joy, a time of hope and good health.

As I look back on at this year's State Session I felt that having a facility that houses both the meeting rooms and our lodging rooms allows us to enjoy more fellowship than when everyone goes their separate ways. I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome and fellowship you extended to me at State Session.

Many of our Granges are still having some issues with doing their regular community services in their communities. I would be happy to visit your Grange and help in any way I can. Help with your Community Service Reports or with community service ideas. Just let me know if I can help.

Here a couple of areas that you might consider for Community Service:

Donating snacks to local hospitals and nursing home workers

Collect food for the local food bank

Write a card or a friendly note for Nursing Home residents or Service personal.

For example: Fredonia Grange wrote about 50 Christmas cards to be delivered to a local nursing home facility where residents have no family or friends that visit or send cards. It didn't take long and will make someone's holiday a little brighter.

Here is a brief description of what your Community Service report should include.

Community Service Report Rules and Suggestions.

Program Date: September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

Community Service Report Due:

September 10th, 2022. This means that your book needs to be delivered to the State Community Service Director on or before that date.

Mary Ann Rocco
 145 Beadle Lake Drive
 Battle Creek, MI 49014

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 their own category.

Summary Report:

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. Reports may be typed or nearly hand written.

Notebook Report:

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. Some choose to arrange projects from large to small and others choose to arrange materials in chronological order. You might also want to include newspaper articles, flyers and or pictures of your events. Remember if a couple of pictures cover the event it isn't necessary to use a couple of pages of materials.

Awards:

Our Granges have several ways to honor its members. You can nominate them for the VIP Award or the Dedicated Person Award. We also have the privilege of honoring a Firefighter/EMT, A Law Enforcement Officer or Teacher of the Year Award in your area. These individuals deserve special recognition for services in your area, helping with Grange service projects or very special projects/service they do.

More in depth information will be coming in the next months. If you have something happening in your Grange you would like to share in the Michigan Grange News Community Service Report please let me know.

If I can do anything to help you, please contact me.

Questions & Answers...

Q: What's a New Years resolution?

A: A to-do list... for the first week of January.

Q: Where do you find Google during January?

A: The Winternet.

Q: How can you farm during the winter?

A: Use a snow plow.

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120
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Happy New Year everyone! Wow, 2021 is in the books and 2022 has just started! Well I am sure everyone is starting to think about Spring and winter is not even half over! I know it is important to have snow during the winter months as that helps to add moisture to our farm fields and also helps to protect the winter wheat during the cold months. So far, we haven't had any snow to speak of in my area of Michigan which seems weird as it is Dec 1st as I sit writing this article.

Yes, snow is a part of everyday life during winter in our community. And don't we often wish we didn't have to live with it, but we couldn't live without it.

So while you sit and look at the snow float from the sky, think about what you might want to plant in your gardens or yards this coming spring. Now is a great time to be looking through the seed catalogs and plant books for those special favorites you might want to plant and then share the crops with friends and neighbors.

Here is a good reason to be planning early. Be sure to check out the Agriculture Department in the Program Book. I left all the classes from 2021 in the program book for 2022 as we only had 2 whole entries for the Agriculture Department. I know it is tough trying to get things to last until our State Session but I try to have classes that the produce would still be good to enter. If our State Session was during the late Summer or early Fall months, we could do more classes to deal with fruits, vegetables and flowers. But it is kind of hard to do tomatoes or raspberries in late October.

I have provided a PDF copy of the brochure that Heifer International sent to me so that the State Secretary can print out color copies and send to all the Granges in Michigan. This brochure gives details on who they are and how we as a group or individuals can get involved to help their great cause of "feeding the hungry". There are suggestions how we can go about doing that with different places within their website. This organization as being going for 75 years and is based in Little Rock Arkansas. I hope we as an agricultural organization show some support no matter how big or how little it may be. Please share with me or Peggy what your Grange

decides to do with this project. Remember it was a resolution that was passed at the State Session to show support to Heifer International so please think about doing something.

Well, that is all for now. Here is hoping 2022 is another great Grange year as we continue to return to a little bit more normalcy for all and brings bounty to our Agriculture Neighbors and Friends! I know many of our friends and family and maybe even ourselves have dealt with COVID-19 firsthand as did myself. Please continue to do your part no matter if you like the restrictions that could be put in place, they are for our community's safety. We are all getting worn down by hearing of this virus each and every day for almost 2 years now.

Until later....

MEMBERSHIP**Get New Members!!**

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

It's 2022. Now is the time to make a plan to get new members!

The membership program is REALLY simple this year! Get members. Plain and simple. The more members you get, the more rewards you will earn.

Please check out the program book for specifics about the program. EVERY Grange will be rewarded for gaining members. The rewards will get better as the number of members increase.

At the National Grange session, State Granges are recognized for net gain in membership. Michigan has not had a net gain in membership for several years. Some State Granges are knocking it out of the park. It's time for Michigan to be a high achieving state and have a net gain! We have had Granges with net gains, but as a state, we have not.

Contact me if you would like some guidance on how to attract members to your Grange. Reminder that the membership year ends June 30.

Have a safe & warm winter!

Tricia