



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVIII NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MAR.-APR., 2022

APRIL IS GRANGE MONTH ~ MAKE YOUR PLANS TO CELEBRATE IT

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE SESQUICENTENNIAL

I know it's been a while since you have heard about the plans for the 150-year sesquicentennial celebration that we will be hosting next year. There have been a couple of postponements due to illness and family crisis but we are now actively meeting to finalize plans.

The date of the celebration/banquet will take place April 8th, 2023. We will have a social hour at noon with a luncheon at 1:00 and some selected speakers following. So, we have a time and date. What we are looking for is a banquet venue in or around Lansing. If anyone would have any suggestions it would be appreciated. We will be actively looking though.

We are also requesting that if you are planning on attending that you might provide us with your current Michigan State Representative/Senator so we can send them an invitation if you would like us to. This is a great way to get the Michigan State Legislature there to show them that the Grange is still a viable organization and is very active in the Michigan community.

One of the things we have discussed is how we are funding this event. We do have a commitment from our MSG Executive Board. \$1500 to start but we are planning on having this banquet **"at no cost to our attendees"**. With this in mind we have put in place a raffle to help raise funds.

The main prize will be a variety of gift cards totaling \$250.00 (i.e., gas, restaurants, or retail establishments), second place will be a painting, and third prize will be a quilted lap robe. We are asking individual Granges or members to donate a gift card or two to help us out. Of course, they will have to be cards that anyone in the State of Michigan can use. If we receive more gift cards, we will use those for the silent auction during state session this year.

We have also discussed that maybe when your Grange is doing a fundraiser that you might want to donate part of your proceeds to this endeavor. Fredonia Grange has done that in the past with their pancake brunches. We would donate half of our proceeds to another cause. Great recognition. The more money we can accumulate the better the venue and meal.

Another topic that has been discussed is that each Grange (active or inactive) makes a display board depicting the history of your Grange and community service projects that you are currently or have worked on in the past. These will be displayed at state session and also at the banquet.

To help with this, we are planning on holding a workshop May 21st at 1:00 at Burns Grange to help you put one together. We are asking that you bring photos, history, etc. to put on your board and we will help you put

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Page 1 & 2 Grange Month 150th Anniversary Extend Grace	Page 3 Why do we do What we do?	Page 4 & 5 Do you have a hearing loss? Stay Heart Healthy	Page 6 Potpourri	Page 7 Congratulations! Carl Eaton	Page 8 Is it Spring Yet?
---	---------------------------------------	--	---------------------	--	-----------------------------



Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

Periodical postage paid at Durand, MI

Michigan Grange News is published bi-monthly for the members of the Michigan State Grange.

Inquiries contact: Michigan State Grange
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

Editor & Adv. Manager:
Christopher D. Johnston

Postmaster send address changes:
Christopher D. Johnston, Editor
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

March 13	Daylight Savings Time	
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	
April 6	MSG Exec. Comm. Mtg.	
April 17	Easter	

Grange Happenings

Oceana Center Grange #1047 will be having their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17th at 6 p.m. It will start approx. 1/2 mile east of the Grange hall on 116th Ave. They will have a bonfire, dessert potluck, (dinner furnished) and a silent auction. Everyone is invited!

Summit City Grange #672 will be having a St. Patrick's Day Supper on March 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 3060 Factory Street, Kingsley. \$15.00 for ages 12-adult, \$7.00 ages 4-12 and 4 and under free. Menu is corn beef, potatoes, carrots, cabbage and breads. Come out for some good food!

Whole page	\$150.00
1/2 page	\$90.00
1/4 page / business card	\$50.00
\$40.00	

The above rates include advertising space for two months.

Prices effective June, 1997. Payable in advance, check should be made to Michigan State Grange. Please include camera-ready copy. Copy to be received no later than the 15th of the month preceding date of insertion. Advertisements for alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Michigan State Grange reserves the right to refuse copy. Discounts available on multiple insertions.

6 issues per year, bi-monthly
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429
Tel: 989-288-4546
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Chaplain

Extend Grace

Jeff Swainston P.O. Box 77, Manton, MI 49663 Tel: 616-405-6921 revjeff82@gmail.com

Extend Grace

The world was a kinder place when people interacted face-to-face. It isn't easy to say rude things when you're looking someone in the eyes. Slamming someone over social media or with a flippant text message is much easier — and that is happening far too much. Freedom of speech has lost its filter.

Thoughtless, disrespectful, hurtful comments run rampant today in social media, late-night talk shows, and even the news.

How do you deal with rude people? When someone is rude to you, maybe your first reaction is to be rude right back. Rudeness responding to rudeness destroys peace. There are better ways to deal with a person's lack of courtesy and kindness.

Recognize that someone's imperfections are just that. If a person makes a disagreeable comment on your social media post, cuts in front of you in the grocery line, or, ignoring you, keeps talking on their cell phone, don't take it personally. Their behavior is about them, not you. So rather than allowing something to upset you and steal your contentment, practice grace by taking the following steps:

1. Take a deep breath.
2. Remember what you're committed to in your heart.
3. Lead by example and treat them the way you would like to be treated.
4. Go one step further and offer authentic listening, an act of kindness, or help with something you learn they are dealing with.
5. Extending grace to difficult people takes practice, but remembering how many times you have received grace makes extending it to others a little easier. Blessing people with grace — with the grace of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, or patience — can help break the cycle of upset in the world. Become a beacon of grace and peace.

Grace is the face that love wears.

Community Service

CS Project Ideas

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

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

Spring is coming soon, hopefully it's right around the corner.

In January, Fredonia Grange has always held its annual Oyster Stew dinner. This year they changed it to a Shrimp Boil Dinner. Delicious!!!

Our Wednesday Music night with dancing has been meeting again and has been very successful again. Something rather new this past year, Fredonia Grange has been hosting the Barn Yard Band on the 4th Friday of the month. Good music and dancing. It's a fun time for all.

On March 19th, Fredonia Grange will host its St Patrick's Day celebration with a homemade corn beef and cabbage potluck dinner and its annual auction to benefit the Bonnie Rocco Words For Thirds Dictionary Project and other community service objectives. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** The more the merrier. We have such a great time.

(5:00 dinner - 6:00 auction)

Community Service is an integral part of the Grange that allows local members to interact and serve the communities where they reside.

Continued on Page 7

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.comVeru

Why do we do what we do?

When we joined the Grange we took a pledge to uphold the Digest of Laws of the National Grange, the Bylaws of this State Grange and the Bylaws of our respective Subordinate Granges. Did we really know what all of those laws were at the time of our initiation, probably not; however as the years have gone by we have had many opportunities to read and understand the meaning of everything in the pledge we took to become members. As we progressed through our membership and we have taken offices that we've been elected to, again we took another pledge again reaffirming our intention to uphold the Digest of Laws of the National Grange and the Bylaws of this State Grange and the Bylaws of our respective Granges. At this point we should have a general understanding of what this means. It means that if a question comes up we don't know the answer to, we should look in one of these many different documents that could have the answer. The other option is to call me, email me, send me a text message, or a letter. I will even accept carrier pigeons. There is NO excuse for doing whatever we want whenever we want without following the directions spelled out in the Digest of Laws of the National Grange. If your Grange decides they would like to close or combine with another Grange, the very first step is to contact the State Master and the Executive Committee. There is a procedure for that, and that procedure has worked for a long time and there is no reason to think it wouldn't work in your situation. The National Grange Digest is available from the National Grange website or by contacting the National Office, the Michigan State Grange bylaws are sent to every subordinate Master every year after our convention with the updates. There is no reason not to follow the directions set forth, I understand everyone wants to do things the easy way. Trust me when I say that following the Digest is the easy way, following the Digest allows for everyone that needs to know to know....

Grange Month April is Grange month.

Let's make it the best one yet. As we are beginning to emerge from this pandemic, we need to celebrate, remind our friends and neighbors we are still

here, and we are still making a difference in the community we live in. We are always looking for members to come be a part of something great.

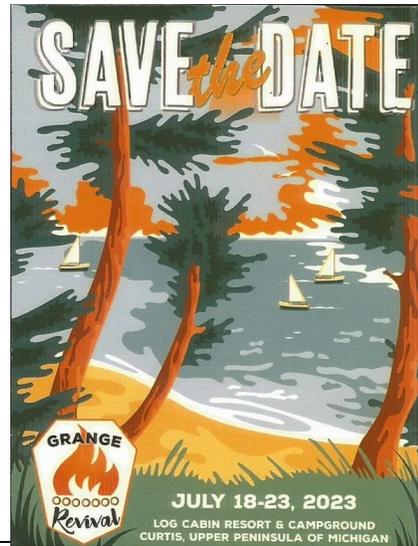
Legislative Fly In

National Grange Legislative Fly-In April 24-27 is being offered in person or online. See National Grange website for more information.

Carl Eaton

Congratulations to Carl Eaton on 75 years of continuous membership with Sturgis Grange then to Burr Oak Grange.

JULY 18-23, 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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
 Tel: 616-262-3516 E-mail: plswainston1@gmail.com

I found this article and thought I would share with you.

Do You Have a Hearing Loss?

1. Do others accuse you of turning the TV too loud?
2. Do others accuse you of not paying attention?
3. Do you misunderstand 50 for 60 or 15 for 16?
4. Do you have trouble understanding unfamiliar proper names especially on the phone?
5. Can you hear as well on the phone with one ear as with the other?
6. Do you have more difficulty understanding persons with foreign accents or unfamiliar dialects that you used to?
7. Do you feel unusually tired or tense trying to follow group conversations, plays, lectures?
8. Have you stopped attending plays, and lectures because of the strain exerted to hear what is said?
9. Can you hear as well when you are not facing a speaker nearly as when you are?
10. Can you understand someone speaking to you from another room?
11. Do you become unusually irritable trying to hear in the presence of background noise?
12. Have you experienced ringing in your ears?
13. Have you experienced any dizziness or loss of balance you cannot relate to a specific cause?
14. Do loud sounds seem to bother you more than they bother other people around

you?

15. Do you miss the punch line of jokes?
16. Do words seem clearer when spoken slowly that then when spoken loudly?
17. Do you seem to hear the words but not understand them?
18. Do you have a history of ear infections, earaches or running ears?
19. Is there history of hearing loss in your family?
20. Do you find yourself saying “what?” frequently?
21. Do others accuse you of speaking too loudly?

If your answer to these questions is “Yes” then a hearing testing and consultation at a hearing and speech clinic may be indicated.

ATTENTION
MEMBER BENEFITS
AT NO COST!

Through a partnership with American Income Life Insurance Company, servicing working families for over 60 years, additional benefits are being provided to all members of MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

BENEFITS AT NO COST TO YOU INCLUDE:

- \$2,500 Group AD&D Benefit
- Child Safe Kit
- Family Information Guide
- Health Services Discount Card

You will be receiving or have already received a letter regarding these benefits. Please be sure to return the reply card.

Or reply online at: www.aillife.com/benefits/SG4FK

An AIL representative will contact members who return the reply card to arrange a convenient time to deliver their benefits and review other supplemental insurance benefits that may be available.

For more information, please call:

Lisa Bennett
 AIL Public Relations
 616.635.7554



AMERICAN INCOME LIFE
 Insurance Company

Tom Smith, Co-Director 215 River Drive Apt. A-4, Three Rivers, MI 49093 Tel: 269-858-8305
 Barbara Johnston, Co-Director 2028 Robbins Road, Tipton, MI 49287 Tel: 517-431-2546 tnjohnston@pc.com

Hopefully as you are reading this, spring is busting out all over. Spring is a special time when there is a sense of renewal and revitalization. Let's all try to apply that lesson to our own lives and also our Grange work.

April is Grange month. Plan something special this year. A special program, a display at the Library or a storefront, a group outing, an extra special Grange dinner or a real serious membership drive. All of these are do-able by Granges large or small; by Granges young or young-at-heart. The gist of all this is just try to do something, anything to present a positive image for your Grange.

As always, Happy Granging!!!

Six Numbers we should know by



1. **Blood Pressure**—Blood Pressure is also called hypertension is the force of your blood against the walls of your arteries. If your B.P. is more than 120/80, but less than 140/90 most of the time, you have pre-hypertension. If your B.P. is usually 140/90 or higher, you have hypertension or high blood pressure. High B.P. is a major risk for heart disease because it puts a strain on your heart. It can also be a sign you are at risk for other serious medical issues such as stroke, kidney disease and peripheral artery disease.
2. **Cholesterol level** —Key number: Less than 200 . Cholesterol is a soft waxy substance found in the blood and body's cells. Too much cholesterol can lead to heart disease. A simple blood test can measure levels. Desirable levels: Total Cholesterol: Less than 200 mg/dl, LDL (bad) cholesterol: less than 100mg/dl; HDL (good) cholesterol: 60 mg/dl or greater.
3. **Triglycerides** — Key number: 150 or below. Another type of fat found in the blood. Levels above 150mg. Can increase your risk for developing heart disease, diabetes and other conditions. If you eat more calories than you burn on a regular basis, you may develop high triglycerides.
4. **Waist Circumference** — Key numbers: for Women 35" or less, for men 40" or less. People who carry too much weight around their abdomen have a higher risk for heart disease, type 2 diabetes and premature death.
5. **Body Mass Index**—(BMI) Key number: 24.9 or less. Your BMI compares your body fat to your weight and height. High levels of 25 and above increase the risk of heart disease. Under 18.5—underweight; 18.5 to 24.9 =normal weight; 25-29.9 =overweight; 30 or greater = obese.
6. **Blood Sugar Level** — Key number: Less than 100 (after fasting). When being tested for your blood sugar level, also call your blood glucose level, you'll be asked not to eat for several hours before the test. A high reading may indicate you have diabetes, which can damage your heart and blood vessels. Less than 100 mg/dl = normal; From 100 to 125 mg/dl=pre-diabetes; more than 125 mg/dl = diabetes.

Set a Positive Morning Intention

Taken from Strive — an AARP Supplement

Would you like to start your days with more energy and purpose? Try setting the tone with a positive intention.

It's a phrase you repeat to yourself first thing in the morning. You can use the same one each day — or change it up.

It can be anything that matters to you. Close your eyes, breathe deeply and repeat a phrase like:

**I am ready for today's challenges*

**My worries do not control me*

** I am a good person, and I see the good in others*

**I am grateful for this beautiful day*

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
 Tel: 269-365-0401 jacqueline_bishop@hotmail.com



Potpourri – “A little bit of this and a little bit of that”

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

It feels a little early to say “Happy Spring”, especially with wind chills making it feel like 13 degrees today, and after an overnight snowfall, but the sun is shining brightly. For those of you that enjoy photography, we are likely nearing the end of the time period to take your photos for the Winter Scene category in the Michigan State Grange Photography Contest that is displayed and judged at the October State Grange session. I have seen a couple photos on Facebook that are likely to be entered in this contest. Non-members can enter this year, so be sure to encourage your friends to enter this contest as well.

There is an event April 6 sponsored by the National Grange and 1-N-1000 Club that may be of interest to Michigan Grangers. It is entitled, “Solving the Puzzle: Estate Planning and Long-Term Care.” The meeting will take place via Zoom at 8:30 pm and is expected to last about 1 hour. The presenter is a lawyer with Grange background from New Jersey, and has been said to have a great sense of humor, making this kind of discussion more enjoyable than might be expected. Anyone wishing to obtain the Zoom credentials should email me. From experience, it is never too early to be aware of basics surrounding this topic.

Sunday, March 13 is when Daylight Saving Time begins this year. We “lose an hour” when we move our clocks forward. I am personally happy that most of my electronic devices automatically change time at the magic hour of 2 am March 13.

Although not directly related to my Lecturer hat, individual Grange histories that were collected at the 125th anniversary of the Michigan State Grange were distributed to Grangers at the convention. The Sesquicentennial Committee is planning to create a booklet, and possibly a book with these histories, with updates over the past 25 years. 2023 is the year of the Michigan State Grange Sesquicentennial. Information regarding content of the request was provided at that time. I have only heard from five Granges thus far, and so I appeal to you to please email or send to me your updates. Ask your President if they have completed this task or assigned it to someone. It has been exciting for me to read all the variety of things that Michigan Grangers have accomplished. I would be happy to interview someone from any Grange to get the information if that would be easier.

There are quite a few interesting and fun holidays in March and April that I found on the Internet. I especially liked March 1 – World Compliment Day. Sometimes, we don’t give as many compliments as are merited. Why not take March 1 and make an effort to give at least one compliment that day? It likely will make someone feel special. A favorite in our family is Pi Day – 3/14, of course. This has sometimes been celebrated with pie being baked and eaten, although this is the homonym. March 22 is International Goof Off Day – this could make an interesting roll call at a Grange meeting, asking individuals how they might spend this day. Turning to April, some really enjoy April 1 – April Fools Day, where various tricks are played on someone else. Did you know that there are at least five different religious holidays in April, which represent Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, and Orthodox tradition? They are Ramadan, beginning April 3; Rama Navami, April 10; Easter, April 17; Passover, beginning April 16; and Orthodox Easter, April 24.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE SESQUICENTENNIAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it together. We have some talented people on the committee to assist with this. We will have the display boards, computer, printer, and lots of hands to help. We need to impress the dignitaries that will be coming and if we can have the displays boards at their finest would be fantastic. If you would not be able to attend, we are willing to come to you so we can have these for state session. More information on this will be coming soon. Our next committee meeting is April 2nd and are hoping that we have a venue in place so we can start sending out invitations. Until then.....Respectively submitted, Rich Hazen

COMMUNITY SERVICE cont'd from page 2

There are numerous benefits to participating in community service, both for you and your community.

- It gives you a way to help others,
- It helps improve your community,
- It a way to meet new friends and
- It often results in personal growth.

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:

- Volunteer at your local school and read with students.
- Host a Bingo Night for a nursing home.
- Drive seniors to doctors appointment.
- Organize an Easter Eggs Hunt for neighborhood children.

Here are a few suggestions from National Grange when putting your Community Service book together.

These are just suggestions that will help the books flow better and make it easier for the people putting them together. Some of the larger books have good projects but they were difficult to identify because of the way the books were organized. More pages (fluff) or larger books are not always better. Good organization is important. **This is not a history book of everything your Grange did in a year just the Community Service projects.**

It is important that the name of your Grange is on the front of the book.

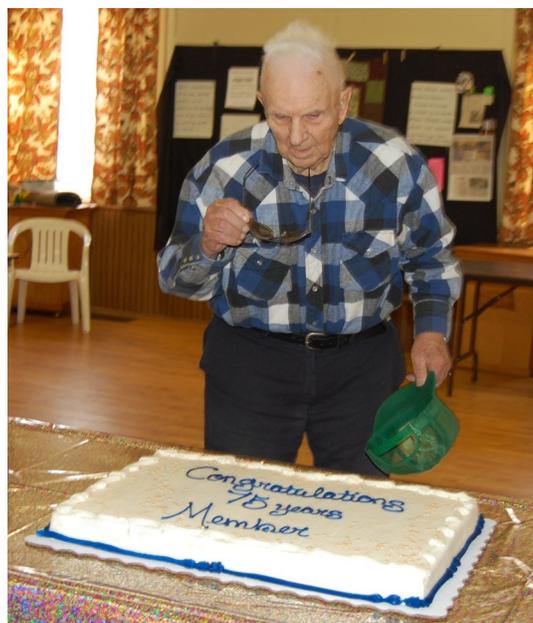
Here are some of the guidelines that are considered during National Grange judging:

- Organization of the material presented
- Community Service Project(s), whether one big or multiple projects
- Participation of Grange members
- Participation of non-Grange members
- Publicity for the Community Service Project(s) and/or the Grange
- Fundraising
- Benefits to the local community

These books are beautiful and are a joy to have at National Convention.

Community Service Reports are due September 10th, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS~~~CARL EATON



A great day to be a Granger!

Saturday January 29 was a great day to be in Burr Oak at the Grange hall to honor long time member Carl Eaton for his **75 years of membership** and service to the Grange in St. Joseph County.

Betty Person, Burr Oak Master, welcomed all to the bounteous dinner. Lucille Bloom gave the blessing. Seven Michigan Granges were represented and eight State Grange Officers attended and one co-director.

An original candle ceremony, written by Tom Smith, was presented by Sharon Popler as leader. Next a candle symbolizing various traits of a Granger were lit. "Love" by Jackie Bishop, "Friendship" by Peggy Johnston, "Cooperation" by Connie Johnston, "Neighborliness" by Marc Johnston, and "Appreciation" by Mary Beth Bower. One candle remained to be lit and Brother Carl Eaton came forward to light it and also received his 75 year pin and certificate, and a bouquet of flowers from Michigan State Grange Master, Chris Johnston. Carl spoke briefly and thanked all for the honor. He joined the Grange in 1947 at Sturgis Grange and when they closed he joined Burr Oak.

A reporter from a local newspaper was present and there should be a vary good (maybe lengthy) story published.

Following cake being served Bingo was played and we all hope to honor brother Carl on his 80th year of membership in 2027.

Reported by Tom Smith

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

Is it Spring yet??!! This winter has been crazy since the first of the year. In my area of the Mitten we have had crazy winter weather happening more so in recent weeks. We are paying the price for a mild December and mostly January. Temperatures have been all over the seasonal range and as I sit here on the 15th of February writing this, we are to have up to 50 degrees on the 16th and lots of rain that evening. Then the bottom drops out of the temperature and goes back into the 20s for the high until Sunday the 20th where we go back to 40! This isn't good on the fruit trees let alone animals and humans too! The snow has been all over the spectrum as well from a dusting to 12"+ in just a day! We have seen system snow and lake effect snow. 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! Also, the local farm store Rural King is gearing up with Chicks!! If looking at these types of catalogs and seeing cute little baby chicks 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. With our State Session in late October, it makes it hard to come up with classes for the Growing Contests in the Ag Department. **I would like to hear from anyone that has some ideas for classes PLEASE!!** 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! We only had 2 entries at the 2021 State Session. 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 look forward to this year we have just started as things keep unfolding once again for our Nation to hopefully keep returning to 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!!

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to Spring!

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

Welcome to spring!

The end of the first quarter is almost here. That means the end of the membership year is fast approaching! The Grange year for the membership department ends June 30.

Hopefully each Grange has been working on a plan to recruit members. I know, it is a difficult thing to do. I do believe that people are looking for an organization to join and be part of something great in their community.

How do you go about this? Ask. Invite them to assist at an event. Ask again. It may take some time to get them on board. Show the community that you are an active Grange. Write an article for your local paper about activities you have done. Keep a current website and Facebook page. It can be done!!

If you haven't read the Program Book yet, the membership program is very simple this year. Get members! The more members you gain, the better the reward/recognition will be at state session. Associate members can count in this gain too!

Wishing you a happy spring! *Tricia*

**HELP SAVE OUR EARTH DAY EVERY DAY
 APRIL 22nd**

While Earth Day is celebrated April 22, it's important to keep the purpose of the day alive and well year-round. Make it an ongoing mission to help save our planet.