



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVIII NO. 4

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MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE SESQUICENTENNIAL GALA

Not much to report at this time. The workshop that we had planned on hosting in May was cancelled due to lack of Granges responding. This would have been a great time for each Grange to come get ideas on how to put together a board depicting what your respective Grange is doing and also a bit of your history. The committee feels that this will be a great visual during our gala as there will be dignitaries from National Grange, state and national representatives, and also some key figures in agriculture.

The meeting we had scheduled in June was cancelled. There are just way too many things happening in June so I am hoping for a meeting in July. (July 9th).

During one of my Grange's meetings (Fredonia) I talked a little about what we are trying to accomplish and what we are asking from each Grange. Fredonia generously donated \$200 and another member (Rexine Cockroft) donated \$50 in memory of her late husband (Uncle Gilly). if you're Grange would like to contribute monetarily, or purchase a gift card (a gas card would be great at this time) we will except any and all donations. Please send your donations to Peggy and specify the sesquicentennial gala.

Since our workshop was canceled, we are going to set aside some time at state session to work on these picture boards with the Granges in attendance. We will have a list of items that you should bring with you. Mary Ann Rocco has purchased ten boards to be used so they will be there for you to get started.

That is all for now. And, to let you know, it's hard as a committee to get a feel of what Grangers throughout the state are feeling about the sesquicentennial gala. We need you to get excited about this as we are. 150 years as an organization is something we should be proud of and really, really promote. Not just at state level but locally to. We are strong and we are proud. Let's show it by getting behind us and making us gala the best ever.

Thank you everyone in advance.

Respectively submitted, Rich Hazen

Michigan State Grange
Sesquicentennial Gala
RAFFLE



Drawing will be held on April 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm
Kellogg Conference Center, Lansing, MI

Cost: \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

License #: X06297

Raffle tickets are available by contacting the Michigan State Grange Office. Each Grange is asked to take some tickets and sell to their members, friends, neighbors or whoever. The more we sell the better.

Great prizes as listed above.

Email: msgrange1873@yahoo.com
Call: 989-288-4546 or 517-285-6532

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July 4

Independence Day



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Chaplain

Don't Lose Sight

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

What comes to your mind when you think of Independence Day?

For many Americans, the Fourth of July serves as a day to watch fireworks, barbecue and have a good time with friends and family. While there is nothing wrong with having these traditions, it is important to remember the reason behind why we celebrate this holiday.

Samuel Adams, the father of the American Revolution, was bold in proclaiming his faith. To him, signing the Declaration of Independence meant no longer submitting to Great Britain, but rather, submitting to the Lord. As a result, America would be free from the power of man and able to serve God. What a significant day in history!

It is important to remember what our duties are as followers of God. We are called to serve God and God alone, and it is such a blessing that we can live in a country where we have the freedom to do so.

Oftentimes, the enemy will use distractions to keep us from fulfilling our duties. Being distracted by all that happens on the Fourth of July can cause us to lose sight of the true meaning of the holiday. This is dangerous, as it can ultimately cause us to stray away from God.

So, why is it important to acknowledge the significance of Independence Day, and how can we do so in today's world?

American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. It is important to recognize that in many other parts of the world, this is not the case. The cost of following God is much greater for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

With this in mind, I encourage us to not lose sight of why we celebrate Independence Day. Take time to reflect on the ways God has blessed you in your life and make it a goal to not take the freedom we have for granted. As you spend this day with family and friends, I encourage you to celebrate the blessing of freedom that was given to us by God.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ~James 1:17~

MSG ELECTION OF OFFICERS —2022

The following officers are up for re-election this October.

Master:	Christopher Johnston
Overseer:	Sharon Popler
Lecturer:	Jackie Bishop
Steward:	Timothy Johnston (not seeking re-election)
Ass't Steward:	Vacant
Lady Ass't Steward	Vacant
Chaplain:	Jeff Swainston
Treasurer:	Kevin Young
Secretary:	Peggy Johnston
Gatekeeper:	Randy Cebulski
Ceres:	Nancy Swainston
Pomona:	MaryBeth Bower
Flora:	Tricia Eidsmoe
Exec. Committee:	Dale Moore Tom Smith

Voting will take place by the delegates at the Annual Convention in October in Marshall, MI. It's important to have delegates present from all Granges in the state to vote on the election as well as the resolutions that come to the floor.

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgrez19@yahoo.comVeru

State Grange Session

As many of you are well aware, the annual session will be quickly approaching. In the next issue of the Michigan Grange news you will find more information in regards to places for lodging in the Marshall area. Region 3 will be hosting the convention at the BE Henry Building in Marshall. More information will be coming soon. As in years past I am sure that everyone will have a great time seeing old friends and getting acquainted with new friends. But now is the time to start getting resolutions together to send to the session. This is one of the Grange's best foundations, being a grassroots organization and having the resolutions come from the local Granges to move up through the levels to the National level. Review the current Legislative policy and see if there are any changes that need to be made as things change with time. Got an issue with something? Write a resolution on how to make it better. Resolutions are due to the State Grange office by Oct. 1st.

National Grange Session

The National Grange session will be quickly following the state session. With three weeks between sessions there will be little time for rest before we head to Nevada. Which also means that in order to assist National Grange in the preparations for the delegate body we need to do our due diligence in making sure that the resolutions we pass are in proper form and are relevant to the times and events of the country and organization. If you want or need assistance in writing a resolution in proper form, please reach out and we'll make it happen.

Michigan's Sesquicentennial Gala

Plans are still in the works to celebrate Michigan State Grange's 150 years. Raffle tickets are available, just let me or Connie know if you'd like to sell any and we'll get them to you. It takes funds to celebrate in style and we need your help in raising the funds.

Also, if your Grange hasn't done so yet, the committee requested a gift card from your Grange to be put towards the raffle. They've only received a few of them at this point. Please consider getting a gift card to send to any of the committee members. The

committee is trying to make this a free event for our members and they need your support to do so. Until next time.....

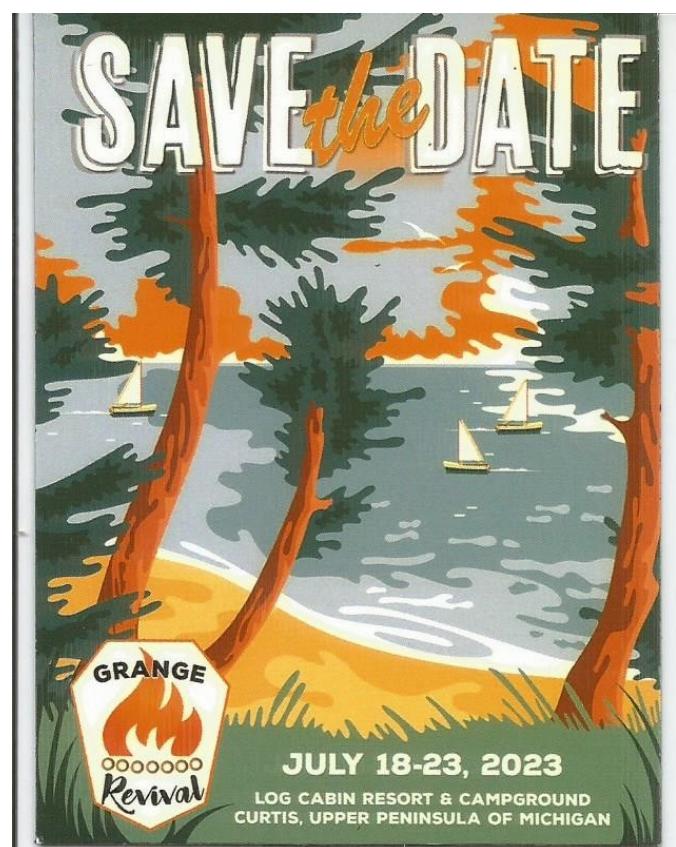
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

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

It's that time of year again to look through the Program Booklet to see what you can do with the contests. Some items have changed and some are pretty much the same so look through them to see what you can participate in.

Deaf Awareness has an Essay Contest both Juniors and Subordinate Grange members and friends can enter. Division I is for Juniors Grange members and Division II is for Subordinate members.

The topics for this contest are:

- ◆ What would your experience be with parents or loved ones that become deaf with age?
- ◆ What would your experience be with a child who is deaf?
- ◆ What do you think your experience would be if you were deaf?

Stay within a 300 word limit.

All entries are to be at the State Grange Convention by Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. and taken to where the Deaf Awareness display is with. Be sure to include the Division and number, the entrants name, Grange name and number and the county.

Awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each division will be recognized with ribbons and certificates and the Junior members will also be awarded with prize money. 1st place - \$3.00, 2nd place - \$2.00 and 3rd place - \$1.00.

Junior Grange Deaf Awareness Poster Contest

Purpose: To teach Junior Grange members about hearing loss, hearing protection, and how deaf and hard of hearing people communicate and give Juniors the opportunity to express their creative abilities.

Awards: Ribbons and money awards in each age group. 1st place – \$3.00, 2nd place - \$2.00 and 3rd place - \$1.00.

Judging: The judging will be on Correction of Message and Educational Value of poster and neatness.

Four Age Groups: 6 and under, 7 – 8, 9 – 11, 12 – 14 who are Junior Grange members or children or grandchildren of Grange members or friends.

Rules: Poster to be made on poster board (maximum size 18 x 24 inches). Crayons, markers, pencils, pens, cut out pictures, and/or photos can be used. The name of the entrant is to be placed on the back of the poster along with age, Junior Grange name and number and the county.

Entry Deadline: The poster is to be at the State Grange Convention by Friday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Bring it in or sent it with delegates and take to where the Deaf Awareness display is.

Let's have a good showing of items this year. Encourage your members to enter. There is plenty of time to do this! Start now!

WHY IS SUMMER LIKE THE LETTER N?

Answer: Because it makes ice nice!

August 3rd is National Watermelon Day on one of our favorite holidays in August!

Tricks to tell if a watermelon is ripe

- The green color becomes dull.
- On a striped melon, the color between the stripes gets darker.
- The rind will get hard.

- The blossom end will soften.
- They will stop getting larger.
- The ground spot will turn from white to yellow.
- The end of the main vine nearest the fruit may start to crack or turn brown.
- The curly tendril on the main vine, closest to the fruit, will turn brown.



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 tnbjohnston@pc.com

Did anyone (or Grange) accept our challenge last issue? You know, the part about informing your members of the many opportunities to show your talents? We can promote at the State and National levels, but it all starts in your local Grange and community, as it should.

The other day I was listening to NPR, and they talked of “Foraging for Foods”: It’s kind of hard to take notes while driving, and my memory isn’t what it used to be. The Erie (PA) Times Network had a much longer article, but here’s some of the points.

Safe Foraging

- ◆ Do your homework. Don’t just assume all that you find in the woods is safe to eat.
- ◆ Use your nose. If a plant has a strong odor don’t eat it.
- ◆ Use your eyes. If a plant has 3 leaves growing in groups (like poison ivy) don’t eat it.
- ◆ Do not assume that just because you’ve seen a deer or other animal eating a plant that it’s safe for you.
- ◆ Know where you are. Stay away from potentially toxic areas when pesticides may be used. Or along busy roads or dog parks.

With these safety tips in mind, consider foraging for several types of foods this spring and summer.

- ◆ Dandelion flowers are a delicious substitute for honey and can be jams & jellies and wines. The flowers can be dipped in batter and

They also can be eaten whole, or the petals can be tossed into salads, on a sandwich or in stir fry.



made into herbal teas, fried to create fritters.

They have detoxifying, anti-inflammatory and cleansing effects, particularly for the digestive system and liver. The leaves provide calcium, manganese, iron, potassium and vitamins A, C and K.

- ◆ Red and white clover are beneficial (particularly red), high in minerals and vitamins. Clover can be added to baked goods, mixed with honey to spice it up or made into a delicious tea.
- ◆ Wild lettuce, mallow & sweet fennel are edible greens and rich in nutrients.
- ◆ Chickweed, comes up in early spring is a green that can be added to salads or made into pesto.
- ◆ Cattail shoots, come up in spring, actually taste like cucumbers and can be eaten raw.
- ◆ Mushrooms. Extremely popular, very tasty and can be very risky as some can be poisonous.



It's best to be accompanied by an experienced forager.

Tasty and inexpensive, quality family time and good outdoor exercise are other benefits.



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS...

Fireworks and summer go hand in hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled season! Keep these safety tips in mind:

- ⇒ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ⇒ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ⇒ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks, including sparklers, which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ⇒ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ⇒ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

**Be Safe!!!!
Happy 4th of July!!!**

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive
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Summer is Here! Have Fun and Be Safe!

For many, this is the time of year to have fun! Some may travel to explore new destinations; some may attend a family reunion; some may grow a garden; some may participate in the county fair; some may play summer sports; some may be busy working in their fields; and the list goes on. In all cases, this is a time to remember safety with regard to all the activities. That article for all of these different activities would be lengthy, but summer safety would make a great Grange program, developed by the Lecturer, or by a member.

There are several of the Lecturer's contests this year that revolve around summer activities, so I will highlight those here, as well as a couple new rules. As in the past, all entries will be judged at the Michigan State Grange convention in October. All entries should have been completed between October 1, 2021 and by September 30.

New this year - all Lecturer's contests are open to Grange members and Grange friends, with the exception of the Public Speaking Contest held at State Grange. You might use a contest to recruit a new member. For example, asking a friend that you know really enjoys photography to enter the photography contest might just be the nudge to have them consider joining your Grange.

Last year, a couple people mailed to me their creative writing entries, and that is an option that can work for me. It is hoped that if you mail an entry to me that someone at the State Grange session will be able to pick up your entry and return it to you.

Another new "rule" this year allows kids younger than 5 to enter. Entries for kids will be judged in two age groups: 1) those 8 years old and younger, and 2) those 9-14 years old. These kids need not be Junior Grange members. We are hoping to see entries from children this year, as this has been minimal in the past few years. Ask your grandkids and great-grandkids if they have some art projects from school that they were especially proud of this past year.

Photography contest. All except one of the photography classes are for photos that may be taken in summer months. These classes are: Winter Scenes, Animals, People, Farm Crops Scene, and County Fair. Remember that judges tend to like un-posed photos that show some kind of action. Since many of us have cell phones that take good photos, this provides a great opportunity to catch those special moments. I am looking forward to seeing your photos for Farm hay, combining wheat, a field of tall corn,

Family Heritage Contest. Since summer is the usual season for family reunions, you might have an opportunity to from the reunion. At least three photos one generation is required, but that is not

Crops Scenes – will it include baling or a family garden, or? mer is the usual season for family recreate a Family Photo Story of photos are required. Portrayal of more than difficult at reunions.



Good Luck to all on their entries!!

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

Summer Is Here !!!!!

Summer is a busy time for all families. We have many Grange Community Service Projects happening in the next few months.

Fredonia Grange has a new activity they would like to share and invite you to attend. On the 4th Saturday of the month, the Barnyard 7 Band plays many familiar songs for your listening and dancing pleasure. Fredonia Grange Hall, 7:00 P.M.

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:

- ◆ Summer is a great time to read to children.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Small Bag for the Needy, Hygiene items like soap toothpaste shampoo etc. given to Homeless shelters or Shelters for the Abused.

No project is too small when helping others.

August 31st marks the end of our Community Service year. **Your Community Service Report is due on September 10th, 2022. 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. Your Community Service Report is for reporting the community service you have done during this Community Service Year.

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.

AGRICULTURE

Is your garden growing?

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

Wow it's July! The first 6 months of 2022 have gone by way too fast! I hope everyone that planted a garden kept in mind the Agriculture Department classes for the 2022 State Session. I really hope to have a good number of entries in my Department this year as there were only I believe 2 entries in 2021.

We are a few short months now from our 2022 State Session that is being held at the B.E. Henry Building in Marshall. It was nice to be back to a normal State Session in 2021 and hope it is even better this year as more people have gotten back to a normal way of life.

Fair season is back in full swing again. In just two short months the Berrien County Youth Fair while be coming to a close as it starts on August 15th. I have 2 pigs and 2 market goats along with Boer Doe in the back yard for my niece and nephew. It is my 2nd nephew's last year of exhibiting, and he decided to only do goats. It was great to hear that MDARD has since lifted the ban of any type of exhibition of poultry or waterfowl due to the Avian Flu that we were having pop up all over the Country.

I use Facebook as many fellow Grangers do as well. One of the pages I like and follow is the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources page. I found the following facts that they have posted the last few months very interesting and a couple of the that I didn't know.

Michigan ranked 4th in 2021 for its sugar beet production.

Are you looking to expand your garden and not sure what to add? Plant a low maintenance, but delicious vegetable: rhubarb! The rhubarb plant becomes large and rangy and is not suitable for small gardens. It prefers cool weather and is adaptable to just about any well-drained soil type.

May is/was National Egg Month. The egg industry has a total of \$625 MILLION in economic impact in the state of Michigan.

Michigan produced 109 million bushels of soybeans in 2021 valued at \$1.5 BILLION!

Remember one class that anyone can enter is the class labeled: Any planting in a Unique container. It can be any type of container, but the planting must have grown in the unique container. Keep in mind that you must be able to transport this item to State

MEMBERSHIP

New Members??

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

June 30. The calendar year is half over and the Grange membership year just ended. Hopefully your Grange was able to take in a new member or two. I would love to see an increase in membership from every Grange. More importantly, it would be great to see Michigan have an increase!

A reminder of the membership program for this year – take in new members! I will recognize every Grange at state session that has new member(s). And associate members count too. The breakdown is:

- Gain 1 new member
- Gain 2-5 new members
- Gain 6-10 new members
- Gain over 10 members – I will have a great reward!

Enjoy the beautiful days of summer! Tricia

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Historical Sign Dedication

Burns Grange #160 will be holding a Dedication Ceremony on July 31st at 2 p.m. at the Grange hall. This dedication will be for the NEW replacement Historical Sign that used to sit on the edge of the Grange property. This historical sign was the first one to be placed in Shiawassee County in 1963 by the community (not the Grange). The cost at that time for the sign was \$250. It was stolen in 2013. To replace it now the cost was \$3,240. The Grange decided to start a fundraiser to get the funds to replace the sign. Through great dedication and giving of the community the funds were raised. The sign was ordered, and finally after six months delay it has been delivered. It will soon be in place once more. It's been amazing how everyone in the area and outside the area have missed this sign. The sign is in honor of the Knaggs Bridge Area which used to be an Indian reservation.

Session and be able to bring it from your vehicle with little assistance.

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