



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXIX NO. 1

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2023

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE



Michigan State Grange
Sesquicentennial
Celebrating 150 years!

Saturday
April 15th, 2023
from 12:00 4:00 pm

Best Western • Stadium Room
2209 University Park Dr
Okemos, MI 48864

Please RSVP to Rich Hazen at
loon_addict@yahoo.com
269.420.1194

In four months we will be celebrating a milestone for the oldest agricultural organization, the sesquicentennial of the Michigan State Grange. During this time the committee will be finalizing the guest list, sending invitations to our special guests, meeting with the caterer, and sending out proclamations to the governors office and local news sources.

The Grange embossed chocolates have been received and a great portion of them have been delivered.

The day that I went to meet Naomi and Eugene Fletcher ended up to be a pretty harrowing experience. The drive up to St Ignace was uneventful but the drive home wasn't. I was fine until I got to

Cadillac but from there to South of Ionia, I was only able to drive 35 to 45 and sometimes only 25 miles an hour due to the snow that hammered that part of the state. The first incident I saw was in Cadillac where a pickup lost its traction and slid off the highway. That's when I slowed down. After going to Big Rapids to drop off Fern Grange's order and seeing one accident and hearing all kinds of sirens, I decided I didn't want to get back on the highway and go through Grand Rapids, so I took the two lane roads home. I did see one rollover accident and I'm hoping that the individuals involved were not seriously hurt. All in all I made it home but I was very tired. *Continued on Page 3*

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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Michigan Grange News

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January 1	Happy New Year's
January 15	MSG Foundation Meeting
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 20	President's Day



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1/4 page / business card \$50.00

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Chaplain

Powerful Message

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

Tell Three People Today, How Much You Love Them

Author Stephen Levine asks the question, "If you had an hour to live and could make only one phone call, who would you call, what would you say, and why are you waiting?" What a powerful message!



Who knows what we are waiting for? Perhaps we want to believe that we will live forever, or that 'someday' we will get around to telling the people we love how much we love them. Whatever the reasons, most of us simply wait too long. Now is the time to let people know how much you care.

Ideally, you can tell someone in person or over the phone. I wonder how many people have been on the receiving end of a phone call where the caller says, "I just called to tell you how much I love you!" You may be surprised that almost nothing in the world means so much to a person.

How would you like to receive that same message?

If you are too shy to make a phone call, write a heartfelt letter instead. Either way, you may find that as you get used to it, letting people know how much you love them will become a regular part of your life. It probably won't shock you to know that, if it does, you will probably begin receiving more love as a result.

Don't sweat the small stuff ~ Richard Carlson

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Burns Grange #160

One of our on going projects for the last few years has been to help what used to be the Byron VFW Auxiliary (now working under a different lodge). Each year they do up ten food/paper products collections for ten families/veterans in the area. Our contribution has been to supply ten of each of the following items for them to distribute. Toilet tissue, Kleenex, paper towels, napkins, dish soap and hand soap. These supplies are appreciated by those collecting them as well as those receiving them.

December Jamboree... The weather stayed okay for us to hold our Jamboree in December. We gave four Christmas packages away to our guests just a small thank you.



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

Welcome to 2023

As we begin yet another revolution around the sun, let us take time and remember those we left in 2022, and reflect upon the good times we had. This year is a year to celebrate. We will begin our celebrations in April for the 150th celebration Gala and will continue celebrating right on through our convention in October. The 150th committee will have information in this and future issues of the Michigan Grange News with more information about upcoming events.

National Grange

In November, several of our members went to Reno, NV for a week of fun, fellowship, and ritual. For the first time in many years a change was made to the Sixth Degree by the Assembly of Demeter. With much debate from past and present delegates of the National Grange, the realization that change was needed for the betterment of the order, so a change was made and I will present the change to you at the convention in October.

Winter planning for Summer rewards

During the Winter months farmers would plan their next year's crops, repair equipment and rest up for spring planting. While we aren't in the fields per se, we can still spend the Winter months planning what we are going to do this next year in or communities, fixing up our Grange halls, and resting up for all the fun we will have spreading the Grange name and sharing the Grange spirit with our neighbors and friends. As we are spreading the name and sharing the spirit, let's not forget to ask our neighbors and friends to come be a part of this great organization.

150th committee

As the committee has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming events and trying to make the gala as cheap as possible for our members by raising money through the raffle, the sale of the Michigan Grange pins, and now the chocolate Grange emblem, we can help by purchasing or selling these items. If you are unsure of where to get these items to sell or buy, just let me know and I will send you in the right direction.

Grange Revival

As I have mentioned before, July 18th through the 23rd Grangers from all across the country will move

into Curtis, Michigan for a week in our own little Gods country known as the Upper Peninsula. We will be staying at the Log Cabin Resort and Campground. It is my understanding that the Grangers have reserved the entire campground and then some other sites or hotel rooms nearby. Everyone is welcome to attend, registration information is available on Grangerevival.com

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.



MSG Sesquicentennial Gala continued from Page 1 Anyway, back to the article.

I have received three reservations for the event so far and two for spending the night. If you're planning on attending please contact me at: cell number; 269-420-1194, e-mail at; loon_addict@yahoo.com or address; Rich Hazen, 9890 22 Mile Rd, Marshall, Michigan 49068.

We are also hoping that you are working on your display boards depicting the history of your Grange. We feel that this will give our dignitaries a sense that we are still an active and viable organization.

We are getting closer to our goal for funds needed to put this event on. The more funds we receive the bigger the event can be. I still have chocolates to deliver and raffle tickets are still available. Please contact Connie Johnston and she will make sure that you will get them if you need more. Once again, we are the committee, but we need your help to make this a very successful sesquicentennial celebration.

Until next time, Rich Hazen

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
Tel: 616-262-3516 E-mail: plswainston1@gmail.com

On behalf of Luanna and her committee, they would like to give a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that took part in making sure our Christmas Party and giving of gifts to 39 boys and girls at Michigan School for the Deaf was a huge success. Without all of your help this challenge would have failed.

At this time we don't have pictures of all of the boys and girls, however we are working on that and they will be in the news next time.

Such torture... sitting there and not being able to open those presents!



There was pizza, chips, pretzels, pop, water, cookies and treats for everyone and cheerful faces on those doing the serving.

Some candy filled snowmen treats for each.

MORE PICTURES FROM MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF CHRISTMAS PARTY...



Lots of Happy faces

Showing his smile



What a GREAT Grange Day!!



Those Grange members that were present to help in anyway they could were of course our fearless leader, Luanna Swainston and her husband Phil, Randy & Joanne Cebulski, Gary & Evelyn Ward, Sharon Popler, Dale Moore, Tricia Eidsmoe, Helen Mudd and Peggy Johnston. A special thank you to all!

Thank you also to Lynn Sedlacko, Dean of Students at Michigan School for the Deaf who took on this challenge of organizing our adopt-a-child Program.



MEMBERSHIP

Pairing up Granges

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

Wow! A new year. Time to start your Grange year with a fresh start and clean slate.

The Program Book contains the 2023 membership program. I spoke briefly about this at state session. I am pairing up Granges in the state with the intention that they can work together to improve their programs and membership. I will be mailing information to each Grange membership director in January with the Grange pairings and expectations.

As part of this program, I was looking in the MSG roster at locations for every Grange. I noticed that some Granges are having their meetings during the day. This is great for your Grange if everyone is retired. But if you really want to grow your membership, please consider having your meetings in the evenings or on the weekends. Nothing will stall the growth of a Grange like having inconvenient meeting times.

I attended the National Grange convention in Reno, NV and there is a buzz in the air about Grange growth. Many Granges and state Granges across the country had a net increase in membership. And better yet, the National Grange as a whole had a net gain! Let's ride this wave and have Michigan be among the net gain states next year!

Have a safe and warm winter!

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Grange Grange #1898

Members of Gratiot Grange decorated ornaments for the residents at the Ashley Healthcare. Sixty ornaments were decorated by the nine members present. We have made tray favors for many holidays and occasion over the last few years, that these residents and the workers look forward to them. Normally whenever a gift is taken to the residents, candy is delivered to the workers as well.

Gifts for a family

Also a collection of food, gifts, and toys were collected and donated to a local family that have fallen on hard times.



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

At the Michigan State Grange session in October, 2022, a major change was enacted by the delegate body that places the previous Family Activities Department within the Lecturer's program. This does not mean that your Grange must eliminate your Family Activities Chairperson if it works well for you. If you have both a Lecturer and Family Activities Chairperson in your Grange, this change may provide for a team approach in a way that you may not have had in the past. Some Granges have planning sessions early in the year to lay out activities and projects – this would be a great time to brainstorm ways that projects can be more team-driven and less individualized.

In recent years, I have laid out what I feel is the Lecturer's responsibility in the Grange. Your Grange may define Lecturer and Family Activities in very specific ways, and there is no reason to necessarily change your definitions. In both cases, you are leaders in your Grange and have much to do with keeping your Grange energized with programs and/or activities. According to the Ritual, the Lecturer's responsibility is education in the Grange. Each of the State Grange contests encourage members and Grange friends to showcase their talents, and perhaps provide an opportunity to learn and do something new - trying out a new recipe, learning a new craft, or joining the current craze of learning to paint in groups. One idea for a program that could be a team approach would be having a program where attendees share their favorite holiday recipe – maybe even have a potluck where they bring the results. I have also stressed having fun and recreation as part of your programs and activities as a means of involving everyone. Social kinds of activities often include fun, so you might offer a class for your community as a new project, and then encourage this group to enter the State Grange contests, as appropriate.

My committee and I have chosen to make some significant changes to the contests previously under Family Activities, but these changes do not really eliminate the kinds of items that may be entered in contests. In fact, we believe that the changes will encourage even more people to enter items that in the past were not listed as a class to enter. There are also

Continued on next page...

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

Happy New Year!!! Sending you Warm Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season. Lets hope 2023 is a time of joy, a time of hope and good health.

As I look back on at this year's State Session I was so pleased to see the number of Granges that participated in the taking of materials for their Sesquicentennial Gala Boards. Good luck with the creating of your storyboards.

I, along with a committee, am looking into revising the Matrix with which the Community Service Reports are currently being judged. The new Matrix will be more in align with the judging criteria the National Grange uses. The main focus of your report is still the community service projects you are currently doing. I will post a copy of the new Matrix when it is completed.

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.

The winter months can be very hard for family members, neighbors or shut-ins. Lets see if we can bring a little cheer to a with a short note, a phone call or a short visit.

Community Service Report Rules and Suggestions.

Program Date: September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

Community Service Report Due:

September 10th, 2023. 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

Continued on next page...

Community Service continued...

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.
Mary Ann Rocco

Lecturer/Family Activities continued...

changes in contests that were previously under the Lecturer's program. Make sure that you keep this issue of the Michigan Grange News which includes the 2022-2023 Michigan State Grange Programs. This is where the new programs are detailed. Check it out, and plan which contests you would like to enter, and which might be appropriate for Grange friends as well, because they may now enter all contests.

I try to cover a wide variety of topics in the quarterly bulletin and hope that these topics provide ideas for programs or activities that your Grange can implement. With the inclusion of Family Activities areas now within the Lecturer's Program, I will create the quarterly newsletters from a broader viewpoint. I encourage comments and questions from you, so that the contests, newsletters, and Michigan Grange News arti-

AGRICULTURE

Planning for 2023

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

Happy New Year everyone! Wow, 2022 is in the books and 2023 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 helps to protect the winter wheat during the cold months. So far, we have had a little bit of snow in my area of Michigan which seems weird as it is Dec 17th 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 some of the classes from 2022 in the program book for 2023 but have made a few changes to see if we can double the entries we had 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. Please be sure to keep the inserted Program Book for the 2023 State Session.

Well, that is all for now. Here is hoping 2023 is another great Grange year as we continue to return to a more normalcy for all and brings bounty to our Agriculture Neighbors and Friends!

Until later....

cles "work" for you. I will be creating a new Annual Report Form, and try to get that to you early in the second quarter. Feel free to call me or e-mail me with any comments or concerns you might have. Working together, we can have a successful year!

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

St. Joseph/Cass/ Kalamazoo Pomona #4

We may be small in numbers but we work hard to help others throughout the year.

St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona #4 annually makes donations of food stuffs in each county. But this year, we tried some-

thing a little different.

Various members took a day (or two) of the 12 days of Christmas. Articles brought to our December meeting, was based on one of the 12 days of Christmas.

Some were pretty easy to do, like a partridge in a pear tree, obviously a can of pears. Others proved a little more of a challenge. Like drummers drumming was dry spaghetti. Lord's a leaping was Kleenex because once you open the package, the rest leap out at you.

Articles were collected for both the Cass & St. Joseph Counties. We are still working on the details of who or where they will be taken.

This shows that community service is not just something that larger Granges do. We were able to do this with just 7 members!



Community Grange #1675

Non-perishable foods were collected and donated to The Spero House in Niles. This group helps the homeless and those in need.

Another Grange that chose to help those in need during the holiday times.

Every little bit of help to these organizations have a major impact on so many people.

It's a good idea to remember that it's not only the holiday times that these places need assistance in helping those that are in need.



Colon Grange #215

On a cold and windy night in Colon, the Colon Grangers provided some much needed warmth.

Members opened their hall and their hearts by providing a warming station for attendees of the annual "Christmas in Colon" Festivities.

For over 10 years Colon Grangers provide a variety of soups, hot chocolate and cookies for the dozens of people who stop in. Also, a craft corner is available for kids to make.

One lady remarked, "I come every year, mostly for the soups!"



Colon Grange #215

For more years than anyone can remember, Colon Grangers in cooperation with Colon Schools have had a special project for all 1st graders in the district.

Grangers provide gifts for each child to give as a Christmas gift for Mom & Dad. Members also assist in wrapping the gifts.

Other than two years of Covid protocol, both members and kids have looked forward to this event.

Graduates and high school students alike remember this project and probably some Dad's and Mom's, too.



Choosing that special gift for mom and dad...then having some help with the wrapping.
What a wonderful program, helping the kids!