



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXIX NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MARCH, APRIL, 2023

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE SESQUICENTENNIAL GALA

Make Your



Reservation Today



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

Page 1 & 2
150th Gala

Page 3
Spring Activities

Page 4 & 5
Hearing Test
FDTN Greetings
Sister Grange

Page 6 & 7
Spring Plans
CS Planning

Page 8
In Memory Of

Page 9 10
Legislative Info
Fulfill your Purpose
Changes/Reminders

www.michiganstategrange.org



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 12	Daylight Savings Time
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
April 2	Palm Sunday
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 16	MSG Foundation Meeting



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 msggrange1873@yahoo.com

150th Michigan State Grange Anniversary

It's been a year and a half now that our esteemed President asked me to lead a committee to put on the sesquicentennial of the Michigan State Grange. In one month we will be celebrating that milestone and it is highly recommended that each Grange be in attendance. Invitations have been sent to Senators and Representatives in each Grange's district so it would be fantastic to have the respective Granges there.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is that your Grange be represented. Our National President/Master will be in attendance so let's "WOW" her with 100% Grange attendance.

I would like every Pomona President/Master to contact their respective Granges and emphasize the importance of them coming. Carpool, pick them up if you can. Just get there somehow.

There have been struggles along the way but we have persevered to put on the best Gala we can

And I'm thanking my committee right now for their patience with me. There have been mistakes made and struggles overcome but hey, that's why I picked the best team I could to help me along the way.

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. 150 years of service. Please bring them with you to the event. We will have display tables available. If you are unable to put together a display do not feel that you would not be welcomed either. We want you there to celebrate with us.

We are very close 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 distribute 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 still need your help to make this a very successful sesquicentennial celebration. You have a month and a half to sell more. Remember the top prize for the Raffle is \$250 worth of gift cards. A pretty easy sell.

We will be having some door prizes so plan on attending and if your Grange would like to donate something for a door prize please feel free to bring it with you.

For a reminder this is a free event for every Grange member and we are requesting the dress to be business to business casual for this event.

Social hour starts at 12:00 PM with a catered meal following.

I have received quite a few RSVP's but we need more. 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. There are a block of rooms available if you would like to spend the night. Just make your reservation with the hotel and let them know you are with the Michigan State Grange.

I need to have the RSVP's by the end March (preferably before that) so we can let our caterer know how many meals they will be serving.

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Message from the 150th Committee

The Sesquicentennial Gala is just around the corner. Your display boards will be on display outside the banquet room. Remember your board can represent your community service activities or history of your Grange. During the social hour before the banquet our quests will have the opportunity to view the boards.

The Sesquicentennial committee will supply small easels for the boards. Please bring your display board to the Gala with you and a committee member will help set it up. If for some reason your Grange will not have a member attending you can send it with another Grange that will be attending. Thank you for all your help with this project.

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 Spring??

Well almost anyways.. This is a great time of year. We get to witness the return of all the snowbirds, whether those be the human snowbirds or the feathered snowbirds. When the robins return we know that Spring is sure to follow. As we prepare for Spring to arrive, let's take some time to clean our Grange halls, prepare our yards for spring flowers, clear away the cold brown appearance of winter, open our doors and let the public in. As we prepare for Grange Month, we need to prepare our programs to be welcoming to new members.

April is Grange month.

This year the Michigan State Grange celebrates 150 years of service to the people of the great state of Michigan. So on April 15th, we will be hosting a Gala in Okemos to celebrate. I am hoping that you are all planning to attend. If you are planning to attend please RSVP to Rich Hazen, his contact information is in his column of this issue of the Michigan Grange News. Or you can RSVP on the Michigan State Grange website. The committee is asking you to respond by March 25th and no later please. The Gala is looking to be a fantastic time of Historical remembrance, fellowship, presentations, great food, and special guests.

As a reminder, if your Grange has raffle tickets for the 150th committee please get those sold and returned to Connie as soon as you can or make arrangements with her to bring them to the gala.

April is a great time to award our Citizen of the Year, VIP, Dedicated Worker, Law Enforcement of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Firefighter of the Year awards. Remember as we are having a special evening to present these awards, we need to make sure we are inviting the press to capture the accomplishments of these individuals and the Grange for the last year.

Grange Revival

For those that don't know, Grange Revival is a group of Grangers from across the country that get

together for nearly a week in July every other year at a campground, for fellowship and touring the country as a group. The evening meal is at a central location in the campground where we will all gather to break bread as a group. This will be a time of talking about what we have done for the day and our plans for the following day. There will be activities following the meals such as games and skits. This year is the first year it is being held in a state with a Grange presence and extra special for our state as it is being held in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, in the small town of Curtis. If you are interested in attending all or part of the event please contact me for more information. Registration is open now and they are asking to get them in so you can be added

150 YEARS! LET'S CELEBRATE!

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to Gordon Merten of Oceana Center Grange #1047

Gordon Merten was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Hart Rotary Club. Gordon was honored for his long-standing work with "Meals on Wheels" delivering meals and assessing the food needs of elderly folks in Oceana County. He also maintains the "water trough" on Polk Road, cutting grass and planting flowers. He is the Eucharistic minister at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, taking communion to home bound parishioners. And he has served the Oceana Center Grange for many years, presently serving as Master.

Well Done Gordon!!

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

Do you Need a Hearing Test

If you are 18 to 64 years old, the following questions will help you determine if you need to have your hearing evaluated by a health professional. Answer YES or NO.

1. Does a hearing problem cause you to feel embarrassed when you meet new people?
 Yes No
2. Does a hearing problem cause you to feel frustrated when talking to members of your family?
 Yes No
3. Do you have difficulty hearing or understanding co-workers, clients, or customers?
 Yes No
4. Do you feel slowed down by a hearing problem?
 Yes No
5. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when visiting friends, relatives, or neighbors?
 Yes No
6. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty in the movies or in the theater?
 Yes No
7. Does a hearing problem cause you to have arguments with family members?
 Yes No
8. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when listening to TV or radio?
 Yes No
9. Do you feel that any difficulty with your hearing limits or hampers your personal or social life?
 Yes No
10. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when in a restaurant with relatives or friends?
 Yes No

If you answered "yes" to three or more of these questions, you might want to see an audiologist for a hearing evaluation.

**FOUNDATION****Greetings**

Naomi Fletcher, President 25-75 Road, Rapid City, MI 49878
 Tel: 906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

MEETING DATE UPDATE: Sunday-April 23, 2023 3:00 pm via Zoom

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters

I'm the new Michigan Grange Foundation President. A position I humbly serve. As a member of the National Grange for over 50 years, my life brought me to Michigan from California where I served as the California State Grange Legislative Director, State Secretary and then as the State Master (President). I've been a member at Burns Grange now for a while. Even though I'm not able to participate in Grange activities because we live in the Upper Peninsula where there is no active Grange, I do try to participate with time and talents where I can, including attending Sessions of the Michigan State Grange and the National Grange.

I'm writing to you as I look out my window at yet another winter storm moving through the Upper Peninsula. We have about 10" last night and today of the white stuff after the first melt last week. Mother Nature loves to play temperature roulette!! I hope you're staying safe and warm wherever you are. Spring is just around the corner!!

Continued on page 5

FOUNDATION continued from page 4

Now on to my reason for this article. We realize not everyone may be aware that the Michigan Grange Foundation provides student loans to university/college or tech school bound students. Notice I said "loans", not "Scholarships". These loans are made available through the generosity of members' contributions and interest earned on Endowments to provide funding to students to kick-start their education each year for up to four years. Again, these are "loans". The details of the Loan program may be found here:

STUDENT_LOAN_REQUIREMENTS.pdf (secure.website). Just to highlight a few bullet points of the Loan Requirements document: There is a limit of one loan per year (\$1,000.00) and a maximum of four loans per student. The Foundation loan committee can extend the loan due date for up to four years providing the student is continuing their education and remains a Grange member in good standing. Repayment of all outstanding student loans will commence 90 days after any of the following: a) Student graduates from university, college, or trade school. b) Student discontinues their schooling for any reason. c) Student's Grange membership lapses.

Notice there is NO INTEREST that accrues during the loan period. However, the expectation is the loans be re-paid. Those re-payments are then placed back into the loan program for future student needs. Unfortunately, the Foundation has had to write off over \$4,000 in outstanding older loans in the last two years. We've made every attempt of securing re-payment short of collection agencies. Our hope is that, if you know of a former student who has a loan with the Foundation, that you would reach out to them to gently remind them they have obligations based on the guidelines noted.

If you know of a student who is looking at entering higher education this year, visit our website at [Michigan State Grange](#), click on Foundation, then Student Loan Application portal for all the details. The deadline for new applications for the Fall Semester is July 1 each year.

You may also find information on the [Michigan State Grange](#) website if you or your Grange would like to make a donation to any of the areas the Foundation covers.

Don't forget about the MSG's 150th Anniversary coming up April 15 in Okemos!! See you there!
Fraternally, Naomi Fletcher, President, MSG Foundation

MEMBERSHIP

Sister Grange

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

Welcome to spring!

I am hoping every Grange has reviewed the membership letter that was mailed in early January and has started a plan to meet with their "sister" Grange. I believe this will be a great opportunity to share information between each other. Please reach out to your sister Grange if you have not had communication yet.

If you have not seen the letter, they were mailed to membership chairman, if listed for your Grange, then either master or secretary. Please contact me to receive another copy of the letter as there is important information in it. Here are the pairings. The Grange in the left column is to visit the Grange across from them in the right column. I tried to keep them as geographically close to each as possible.

Burns #160	Maple Leaf #940
Community #1675	West Oshtemo #1630
Fredonia #1713	Plymouth/Westland #389
Gratiot #1898	Kinney #754
Harbor Springs #730	Barnard #689
Home #129	White Pigeon #1345
Mosherville #1351	Colon #215
North Adrian #721	Burr Oak #1350
Oceana Center #1047	Summit City #672
Pittsfield Union #882	Adams #286
Studley #1174	Fern #803

Amanda Brozana, Leadership and Membership Director for the National Grange had a suggestion for the Granges participating in this program. I sent her the letter that each of you received as the idea for this program came from a Membership Matters Zoom meeting that is held monthly. She had a few suggestions to make the visitation fun. Take along a favorite potluck item (and the recipe) to exchange a few good bites. Or give members of the Grange a small gift/token of friendship. No need to spend a lot of money for this last suggestion.

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. I would love to see every Grange gain a member or two!

Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Tricia

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



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

This column is not only for Lecturer's and Family Activities Chairs in your Granges. I put information in the MGN that I hope all Grange members of Michigan read. I try to include a variety of topics. Please let me know what you would like to know more about, and I will try to comply.

It is interesting to note that in the past three years, we experienced some significant winter weather just before I wrote the article. That is true this year as well, with the ice and snow that Michigan had the past few days. There are a lot of trees and power lines down in Kalamazoo County, and it has been interesting figuring out what roads are open. Ah, but we have Spring less than a month away!

March 20 is the first day of spring this year, and even though our winter has not been too terrible, we look forward to the "greening up" and the flowers that begin to bloom. I found some interesting fun facts at funfactoday.com/seasons/spring-facts-trivia/ that might provide interesting discussion at a Grange meeting. Did you realize that the sun, on the first day of spring, skims across the horizon, signaling the beginning of six months of uninterrupted daylight for people at the North Pole and six months continuous darkness for those at the South Pole? During the Spring, birds are more vocal as they sing to attract mates and warn away rivals. In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours and bringing warmer weather. Many early peoples celebrated spring for the basic reason that their food supplies would soon be restored. Spring is often associated with rebirth, renewal and regrowth.

The Sesquicentennial Gala will be held April 15 in Okemos. It is hoped that many Grange members will attend. The committee has been working hard to make this a memorable event. Make sure that you RSVP to Rich Hazen as described in another section of this issue. The Gala will include a hot luncheon meal, a short program, display of your Subordinate Grange boards showing your activities, a raffle drawing, door prizes, and special guests – all for free. Thanks to

Continued on Page 9

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.

Punxsutawney Phil has predicated 6 more weeks of winter, but Michigan has been good to us and made it a mild one. Lets hope for an early spring.

At the State Session it was talked about the larger Granges partnering with a smaller Grange and working together with activities and ideas to make them stronger.

I hope some of our Grangers have done this or are thinking about doing this.

Fredonia Grange has partnered with Plymouth/Westland Grange. On Saturday February 18th, Fredonia Grange is hosting Family Bingo. Maria and Oz from Plymouth/Westland are planning on attending this event. Our partnership has begun.

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

The Notebook Reports:

- The summary report should be placed at the beginning of the Notebook. This form is required!
- Material should be organized. Suggested ways to submit the Notebook is to have the projects grouped together by the size of the project, chronologically or have your Notebook read like a book. Easy to read and follow activities. This is your opportunity to tell the story of your Grange in a neat and concise manner.
- Please do not send more than one Notebook. Notebooks cannot be larger than a 2-inch binder! More isn't always better!
- Videotapes and computer discs cannot be used in place of a report for judging.

Projects:

- Describe the new and old project(s) that will answer the Who? What? Where? When? Why? And How?
- Why did you choose this project? Did it benefit the community? Did you overcome obstacles? Did you record what you would do differently?
- Would you recommend this type of project to other Granges?
- Include the details of the work. Were there special committees? Did it take cooperation of other groups?

Continued on Page 8Com-

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 19th of February writing this, we are all over the place with temperatures. 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.

Here are a few interesting facts that I found in the publication Michigan Agriculture 2022 edition. After a 45,000 acre potato harvest, Michigan Farmers produced nearly 17.6 million hundredweight of potatoes in 2020. Leading the U.S. in the sales value for impatiens, begonias, geraniums, petunias and Easter lilies, Michigan ranks 3rd nationally in floriculture production. Ranking 3rd in the U.S. in apple production, Michigan's 2020 apple harvest totaled 927 million pounds of the fruit.

I look forward to another great Grange year as we celebrate 150 years of the Grange in Michigan. 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,

150th Michigan State Grange Anniversary

Still available are the following two items. The raffle tickets, that sell for \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00. Three great prizes are available to win. \$250.00 of various gift cards, Snowdin the Tiger Acrylic Painting and a quilted lap robe.

The other is the 150th pin (everyone should have one) that sell for \$5.00 each. To get either of these contact the Michigan State Grange Office. Time is running out!!



Michigan State Grange
 Sesquicentennial Gala
RAFFLE

Various Gift Cards Totaling \$250.00
 1st Prize

'Snowdin' Tiger Acrylic Painting
 2nd Prize

Quilted Lap Robe
 3rd Prize

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

In Memory Of



**DARLENE VANZUILEN
MSG LECTURER 1996-2002**
Sister Darlene VanZuilen, 89 of Sturgis, MI passed away on January 5, 2023. Darlene earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition in 1955. She

married Don in 1955 and they started their family of three children. During that time she earned her elementary teaching degree. She was actively involved in the Sturgis Grange and St. Joseph County Grange Fair.

Darlene is survived by her three children, Kevin (Cathy) VanZuilen, Kathy Bahr, and David (Pamela) VanZuilen.

The family asked that memorials be made to the St. Joseph County Grange Fair in Centreville.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant



**MARCUS L. KURBURSKI
MSG EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
1990-1998**

Brother Marcus, 58 of Harbor Springs passed away on February 8, 2023 at the McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey.

Marcus worked on a couple of

farms in the Harbor Springs area and then worked as a bus driver and mechanic in the bus garage and took the job of Transportation Director at the Harbor Springs Schools. He loved his job. He was Master of the Harbor Springs Grange #730 and President of Emmet County Soil and Water Conservation District. He was also a member of Emmet County Farm Bureau. He served for more than 25 years as a fire fighter on the Readmond Friendship Cross Village Fire Department before retiring a couple of years ago.

Marcus married to Angela (Joseph) Kurburski in 1993 and they have two children Mathew and Jennifer.

Memorials are asked to be directed to the family.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant



**MARIE THELEN
MSG POMONA
1958-1964
MSG LADY ASSISTANT
1964-1978
MSG WOMEN'S AC-
TIVITIES AND DEAF
AWARENESS DIRECTOR**

Sister Marie of Bay City, 89 1/2 (formerly of St. Johns) passed away on February 9, 2023 at the New Hope Bay Facility in Bay City.

Marie married Alvin Thelen in 1953. They had six children, Nancy Thelen, Vickie (Michael) Thompson, Debra (Gary) Serrino, Douglas (Kim) Thelen, Jim Thelen, and Sandra (Jim) Osowski. Six grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Alvin preceded her in death in 2014.

Marie fulfilled many positions in the Grange. She belonged to Olive Grange in St. Johns. When that Grange closed they joined Capitol Grange in Haslett. Her and Alvin both served on the board of the Grange Acres Housing Complex in Haslett for several years. Marie later joined Burns Grange in Bancroft. Last year she was presented with her 75 year membership award.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

**COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 6:**

How many Grangers and non-Grangers were involved? What did you accomplish? Describe your successes.

- Include support materials used such as publicity, pictures, news articles & letters.
- Keep the report concise. Include only material that directly impacts the projects you are explaining.
- On the Project List pages: List the projects, the approximate number of hours spent on each project. List the number of Grangers and non-Grangers who assisted with the project. If more space is needed use additional pages.

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." — Leo Tolstoy

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." — Margaret Atwood

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring." — Lilly Pulitzer

**LECTURER'S/FAMILY ACTIVITIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

all the Granges and individuals that supported the raffle (still tickets available), as well as made donations or sold candy to make this day possible.

Some of you may be wondering what happened with regard to gathering and publishing Subordinate Grange histories that I began over a year ago. I had to pause this project as a result of family health and other projects pertinent to the April 15 Gala. I plan to restart this project in May. For those of you that have submitted your histories, thanks! For those of you that have not yet submitted them, I will be calling to get some information. The hope is that a booklet of these will be available at the 2023 Michigan State Grange session.

I always like to include holidays in my MGN copy or my newsletters. There are so many in March and April! This year, Daylight Saving Time begins March 12, when we "lose an hour" and move our clocks forward. Many religious holidays occur in March and April – Ramadan begins March 22, Passover is April 5 – April 15, Easter is April 9, and Orthodox Easter is April 16. If you are not aware of all of these, this could be a little research project and provide information for a program. April 18 is Tax Day. One of my favorites is National Grilled Cheese Day on April 12.

Legislative

A few topics being worked on in Washington, per the View from the Hill:

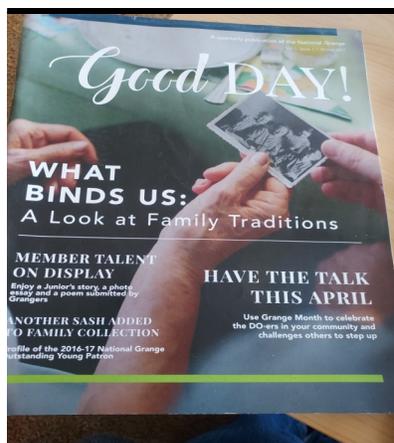
- **Expanding Agricultural Exports Act**—Agricultural export market development and promotion programs have added an average of \$9.6 billion annually since 1977 to the value of U.S. farm exports. But these programs have not kept pace with foreign competition placing the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage. The bipartisan and bicameral Expanding Agricultural Exports Act would double the annual mandatory funding for foreign market promotion and development.
- **Cattle Pricing Reintroduced in 118th Congress** — The bill establishes minimum levels of fed cattle purchases made through pricing mechanisms such as negotiated cash, negotiated grid, stockyards, and other accepted trading systems. It also establishes a public library of marketing contracts, mandates boxed beef reporting, and requires packers to report the numbers of cattle to be delivered for the next 14 days. The intent is to create total transparency in cattle markets.

Continued on page 10



Worthy Master Chris Johnston is still waiting for someone to come forward and volunteer to take over the **Junior Grange and Youth Grange Department**. There is so much fun, learning experiences, and friendship just waiting for the young members of our Granges. If you would be interested please contact Chris.

He is also looking to fill the **Legislative Directors position**. Our Legislative work in the Grange is a big part of what we are.



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!!

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

Fulfill Your Purpose

Thinking, planning, and preparing are all well and good, but none of those things will actually fulfill your purpose. To do that you have to act. God doesn't instruct us to over think everything to death. He instructs us to obey. To hear His call, accept His instructions, and get to work.

In the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-32), a father told each of his two sons to go work in his vineyard that day. The first son at first refused to work, but then he later changed his mind and went and did what his father asked of him. The second son promised to go, but then he never did the work he committed to doing. Jesus asked the crowd, "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" The answer, of course, was the first son. The second son said all the right things, but he never acted. Thinking about your purpose and making plans don't count. When God calls us, He expects action.

You will always be able to find a good excuse not to act. After all, life is busy and complicated, and there will always be a lot of demands on your time. It is up to you to choose: to keep up with the demands and expectations of society or to obediently say yet to God. Even if, like the first son, you have said no to your purpose time and time again, it is not too late to change your mind and go do what God has asked of you.

He has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

~2 Timothy 1:9~

Legislative continued from page 9

- **House Creates Special China Committee** — House Speaker McCarthy has convened a special bipartisan panel to investigate Chinese investments in U.S. agriculture. Its charge is to create a report by the end of the year to highlight issues that need legislative solutions.
- **New Requirements for Healthy Food Label** — The Food and Drug Administration is updating its requirements for the use of the term healthy on food labels for the first time since 1994. If food companies want to use the healthy claim, the product must abide by specific thresholds of total and saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium plus contain nutrients like Vitamin A, calcium or iron.
- **End of Pandemic-Era SNAP Benefits** — Emergency pandemic-era Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) special benefits ended this month.

Peggy Johnston 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429
 Tel: 989-288-4546 or 517-285-6532 E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Roster Changes:

It never fails, by the time I get the roster finished and mailed or emailed, somebody has changed an address or phone number or the wrong information was received and printed.

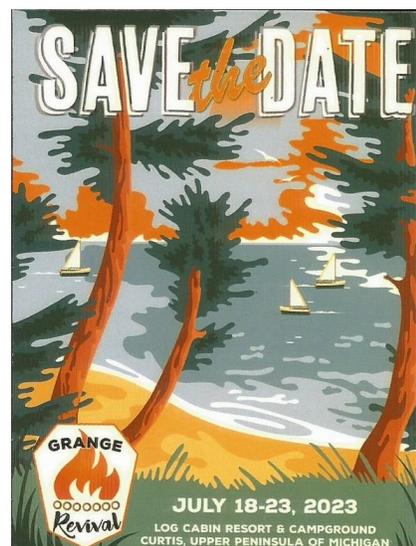
One of my mistakes and I really don't remember where I got this info was Naomi Fletcher's phone number, but it was wrong in the roster for her position as President of the Michigan State Grange Foundation. The correct number is 906-399-2815.

I will take this time to remind all members and secretaries that if you or a member change their address or other contact information, to please let me know at the Michigan State Grange Office. Each time we get returned mail due to a changed address we now have to pay .74 to the post office. These add up some months when we get several back.

Another reminder is for the Secretaries. Please make sure to get your Quarterly Reports into the office on time. We don't want to have to go back to charging late fees, but it could happen.

GRANGE REVIVAL '23

JULY 18-23, 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Have you made your reservations to attend the Grange Revival in Curtis, Michigan this July? If not, please do. Contact: Chris Hamp, 16418 N. Birdie Road, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026 Tel: 509.953.3533 E-Mail: grangerevival@gmail.com