





## Volume XXIX NO. 3

## **USPS 345-580**

## **MAY-JUNE, 2023**

## **150TH GALA THANK YOU**

The celebration for the MSG Sesquicentennial was a huge success.

I want to personally thank my committee that put this all together. We did a fantastic job. The key for a Committee Chairperson is to select people for the committee that have their own unique talents and I did that. Thank you.

The Granges that brought displays ( plan on bringing them to state session), donated money or items for the event, drove to and attended I want to thank you too. You were a huge part of our day.

The speakers were fantastic and the presentations of this accomplishment was humbling. There is not another agricultural organization (that I know of) that can claim they've been in existence for 150 years.

Our special guests from other farmer's organizations I feel were impressed with our history and future. For those who couldn't attend, our esteemed National President said that for the first time in quite a few years that the National Grange has gained membership. Maybe we're on a growth spurt.

The fellowship during this Gala was amazing and it was great to see new Grange faces attending. Hopefully we can get them to state session and show them how much fun and fellowship we have there.

At state session we plan on having a power point picture program of the Gala so please plan on attending to witness what a fine day it was. Rich Hazen, Committee Chair

#### MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of ASHA members in providing life-altering treatment.

For 2023, the theme is "Building a Strong Foundation".

A Note About the Name "Better Hearing and Speech Month" Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) has been recognized by its current name for more than 50 years. The name will remain the same for 2023. However, later this year there will be an announcement about the future of the month's name.

- According to the World Health Organization's first World Report on Hearing. Noise is now being acknowledged as an important public health issue and a top environmental risk faced by the world today.
- Over 50% of people aged 12–35 years listen to music via personal audio devices at volumes that pose a risk to their hearing.
- A rule of the thumb for staying safe is to keep the volume below 60%.
- If you frequently use personal audio devices around loud sounds: instead of turning the volume up, consider using noise cancelling earphones or headphones.
- Listening through personal audio devices should not exceed 80 dB (adults) or 75 dB (sensitive users: e.g., children) for 40 hours a week.
- Listeners who regularly use portable audio devices can expose themselves to the same level of sound in 15 minutes of music at 100 dB that an industrial worker would receive in an 8-hour day at 85 dB.

Page 1 & 2 150th thank you ~ Better Hearing ~ May 4, 2023	Revival ~	DA Posters Avail-	Page 5 Grange Garden Contests ~	Page 6 & 7 CS Projects ~~ Which Season ~~	Page 8 Memorials ~ Broadband ~ Grange Happenings
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May 5	Cinco de mayo
May 14	Mother's Day
May 20	Armed Forces Day
May 29	Memorial Day
June 7	MSG Exec. Comm. Mtg.
June 14	Flag Day
June 18	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 21	Summer Solstice

#### Answer for Page 8 puzzle The letter "r"

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

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.

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#### Chaplain

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

# May 4, 2023 is the National Day of Prayer. Exactly what is that, you ask?

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked to "turn to God in prayer and meditation."

This year's theme is derived from James 5:16b, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Since President Washington's swearing in, prayer has played a pivotal role in the truth that our rights come from God and not government.

#### WHY PRAY FOR AMERICA?

God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we pray for America whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are "one nation under God," and whose currency states that it is "in God we trust," we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we'll be changed, and we'll see transformation in America through prayer!

## HOW TO PRAY FOR AMERICA

Pray for our leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity.

Pray for our President, Vice President, cabinet members, congressional leaders, and Supreme Court justices.

Pray for our Governor, executive leaders, legislative leaders, and judicial leaders.

Pray for our Mayor, city council, police chief, fire chief, judges, and county officials.

It is also appropriate to pray for our military to be supported and respected, our media outlets to bring uplifting and life-giving messages, our businesses to provide an economical boost, our churches to reveal God's love to the world, our families for healthy relationships, and our educational system to provide equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential.

What are you doing on May 4? Hopefully spending at least part of your day in prayer. Please consider it.

Blessings to each of you, Pastor Jeff

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 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

## **150th Celebration**

Congratulations to the Michigan State Grange on 150 years of continuous service to the citizens of the Great State of Michigan. Thank you to Rich Hazen Chairman, Randy Nail, Alayna Nail, Jackie Bishop, Mary Ann Rocco, Terri Misner, Lori McPeck and Connie Johnston, who worked diligently for two years on preparing and executing the Gala that was held April 15, 2023. What a fantastic Grange day. As we continue our celebration of the 150th year into our convention in October, we need to begin planning for the next 150 years, or at least start with the next year... I am still looking for individuals that are willing to step up and take on the role of the Youth/ Young Adult/Junior Director, as well as the Legislative Director. These two roles will go a long way in securing our viability and stability into the future. I look forward to hearing from dedicated, willing individuals.

## Grange Month

Since April was Grange Month, I hope everyone opened their halls and homes to the community and recognized members of the community for their hard work and dedication to the betterment of life in general. The more we recognize individuals for their work, the more we can invite the community into our Granges and advance the interest.

JULY 18-23, 2023



## Grange Revival

In July, Grangers from all across the country will

be converging on the small town of Curtis in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. There will be evening meals together with fellowship time, there will be games going on throughout the week. There is a trip planned with your registration that goes to Sault St. Marie with a boat tour of the Soo Locks, plus multiple other day trips that individuals will be taking. There is a evening that an entertainer has been acquired for some music around the campfire. You don't want to miss out on the fellowship that this Revival is known for. This is one of those events that you are able to relax and enjoy, very little work is involved.

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

## State Session

This year our convention will be held in the Lenawee County Fairgrounds Community Building. There are a plethora of hotels around Adrian, as well as restaurants. More information will be coming in future issues and on the website as we get closer.

## **National Session**

The National Session in November is being held in Niagara Falls, New York. The registration for National opens the first of May. This year it is only a little over 4 hours drive for me going through Canada. It is close enough to make the trip and see how the National Grange operates. Michigan will be one of the several hosts next year and we will need a lot of support in Iowa. This year would be a great opportunity to see what all will be needed to be done and what you might be able to help with.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

Get yours now. We are half way through our 150th year.

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

**Hi Everyone!** For the time being Sister Luanna Swainston is taking a vacation from the Deaf Awareness Activities. She is still being consulted on every move! But for the time being while she works to get in better health I will be doing what she wants or needs done! That "I" would be "me"....Peggy Johnston. So if you have any questions, or concerns or need any supplies PLEASE contact me at the Michigan State Grange Office and with Luanna's guidance I will see what I can do to help.

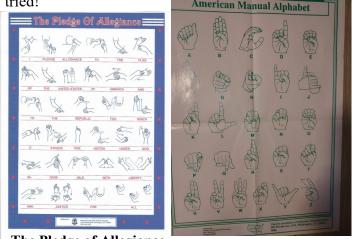
We are praying for better health in her very near future.

#### **Deaf Awareness Posters Available**

I have two of the Deaf Awareness Posters Available for distribution. I'm asking if anyone would like either or both of them to let me know which ones and how many. I will do my best to get them out to you. In the past we have encouraged Granges to place them in Grange Halls, schools, doctors offices, daycares, Sunday school rooms, etc. They aren't doing anyone any good sitting here in the State Grange Office. We need to get them out.

These are the two posters that I have available. If I get over to Luanna's maybe I can get some of the other ones that she might have available, but for now these are the only two.

I'm sorry for the picture of the Alphabet but I tried! American Manual Alphabet



The Pledge of Allegiance

American Manual Alphabet

Order yours now!!

#### **Deaf Awareness Appeal for Donations**

By now your Grange should have received your Deaf Awareness Appeal Letter. Either the Deaf Awareness Chairman or Secretary should have it.

Please consider donating to this fund to help with the \$500 Scholarship to the Michigan School for the Deaf student and also to help with a donation to the Alexander Graham Bell Summer Camp Program.

After our numbers more than doubled last year with the students at Christmas at MSD we could certainly use some more funds to help with any students we cannot find sponsors for. This is such a wonderful program and we really don't like to have to turn kids down. Today so many need extra help.

Send those donations to the Michigan State Grange.

Thank you in advance.



Welcome to spring! I hope every Grange is working hard to attain new members. Hopefully you took advantage of Grange Month in April to promote your Grange.

I hope that Granges find this program meaningful and have connected with their sister Grange. I do believe every Grange can benefit from meeting and talking with another Grange. Please reach out to me if you have questions or problems.

I have decided to continue the Sister Grange Program for another year with it going through 2024. I feel there was not much time for Granges to connect with each other and set up a visit to each other's Granges. Studley Grange is still working on meeting with our sister Grange. The weather has been a small part of the problem.

The Grange year for the <u>membership department</u> <u>ends June 30</u>. Which means there is not much time to get new members on your membership roll.

I wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day, Happy Father's Day and Memorial Day! Summer is just around the corner!

## **Lecturer/Family Activities**

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



Although the last week has shown us a few lingering snow showers, I am energized by the buds and leafing out of the trees, as well as all the flowering trees and shrubs. I was also energized at the turnout and participation of Granges at the Michigan State Grange Sesquicentennial celebration on April 15. The boards that individuals Granges created about their activities, as well as support with donations, selling candy and attending all made this day special. Thank you!

I suspect that many of you have your garden planned, and may even have some of the plants already growing inside preparing them for transplanting outside. This year, there are five different opportunities in Michigan State and National Grange contests with regard to your gardens.

One of the Michigan State Grange photography categories is gardens. There are so many possibilities to capture photos of your gardening endeavors. There are no changes to the photography contest rules this year – refer to the Michigan State Grange Program Book distributed with the January/ February Michigan Grange News. In addition, the National Grange has a virtual photography category for gardens. These two contests are separate – you do not need to win at Michigan State Grange to qualify for the National Grange contest. In fact, the National Grange entries need to be submitted online by September 1. See the following link for details: https:// www.national grange.org/lecturer-contests/. You may enter the same photo in both of these contests.

The third opportunity is a bit more detailed than these first two and is a National Grange contest. It is a Garden Design Contest. This may be entered by individuals or groups, by juniors and adults. The categories are raised bed garden, container garden, and ground space. Entries must include a written description that includes: 1) Name of gardener, Group and Division (ex. Individual Adult: Container) Grange name, number and location, contact information including mailing address, email address, and phone number. 2) Purpose of the Garden: examples include purposes such as: herbs, produce for fresh use, produce for preserving, gifting, cut flowers, pollinators, etc.) 3) List of all plant varieties in the garden: (ex. Early Girl Tomato, Malabar Spinach, 4) Three photographs: one at the completion of planting, one mid-season and one in late August. These entries must be submitted as an electronic pdf file by September 1. I would like to see multiple entries in this contest from Michigan.

The fourth opportunity is to enter one of the Michigan State Grange Agriculture contests: vegetables and flowers. This includes potatoes, winter squash, sunflower head, plant in unique container, blooms of flowers. See the Program Book for details.

The fifth opportunity is to use the produce from your vegetable gardens to enter one of the Michigan State Grange Home Made Food Contests. To tie this together with the gardens, I found the following Bread & Butter Pickles recipe in the 1955 Home Grange Cookbook that was submitted by my grandmother, Emilie Robinson.

8 qts. cucumbers sliced	8 cups sugar
4 green peppers sliced	1 tablespoon whole
	cloves
12 onions sliced	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> cup mustard seed
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt	2 tablespoons tumeric
2 qts. Vinegar	

Combine cucumbers, peppers and onions. Sprinkle with salt and let stand 3 hours. Bring to a boil the vinegar, sugar, cloves, mustard seed and turmeric. Add well-drained cucumber mixture and bring to a boil. Pack in cans to seal while hot.

For those that may be new to gardening, I found a great web site that you can type in your zip code and find out what plant hardiness zone you are in. The map shows that there are at least five different zones in Michigan. Also included is a planting calendar for your zone and other helpful information. The website link is garden.org/nga/zipzone/.

Happy Gardening! I can't wait to see the results.

## **Community Service**

Projects

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



HELLO SPRING!!!!! Hopefully sunshine and warmer temperatures will be here to stay. Summer is knocking on our door.

As you read this report I hope many of you enjoyed the Sesquicentennial Gala held in April. Congratulation to Michigan Granges for 150 years of Grange Services.

As the weather breaks more and more opportunities will arise to help out in our communities. Our Community Services are a way to help each other and to help in our community.

## Have you thought of doing any of these community services?

- It's a great time to read to children.
- Continue to collect coupons for local food pantries and shelters
- Help Seniors make appointments to get or provide transportation.
- Help a senior get their garden or yard ready for Summer.

Our Community Services can be as big or as personal as you want.

A committee has been working on a revising the matrix for judging of our Community Service Reports. I will be sending the revised copy to Community Service Directors along with the Summary Report form and

The award forms at a later date. **Remember** the focus of all Community Service Reports is on the Community Service your Grange has been doing.

## GRANGE AWARDS

Lets review the awards that are available to our Granges We would like to encourage Granges to nominate a person in their community for the Dedicated Worker Award, a Grange member for the VIP (Very Important Patron) and The National Grange Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Awards.

#### **DECICATED WORKER AWARD**

This award has its importance to the granges presenting the award. This award will no longer be judged at the state level. All nominates will be sent to National for judging. We hope that Granges will continue to present this award to people in their community.

The purpose of the Dedicated Worker Award is to honor someone in your community that has made a difference. Giving public recognitions to those who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done.

#### **VIP – VERY IMPORTANT PERSON**

**The purpose** of the VIP Award is for each Grange to honor a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Grange.

## Submission:

Only one entry from a Grange may be submitted to the State Grange per year. Submit a biography and a summary of the contribution the VIP nominee has made to the Grange. If possible also submit a photograph of your VIP. The submission shall be sent to the State Community Service Director postmarked by September 10<sup>th</sup>

#### National Grange Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Award

The purpose in nominating an individual, in one of these categories, gives public recognition to those who have made an outstanding effort, is important in your various community service projects, that include honoring these hometown hero's. National Grange encourages your Grange to honor these well deserving individuals.

#### Submission:

Each State Grange may submit one nominee for each category. Submit your nomination form, and any other supporting paper work, for possible National Grange recognition, to the State Community Director, the same time, as your Community Service report is due.

The National Grange website has information on the Do's and Don'ts for your Community Service Report.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

AGRICULTURE

Which Season?

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

**Wow is it Spring, Winter, Summer!!??** April sure has been a wild one so far. We had snow, we had a week of temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s and bad thunderstorms with large hail. April 23<sup>rd</sup> into the morning of April 24<sup>th</sup> we were under a freeze warning for my area of the State.

How many of you have planted anything in your gardens yet? Things that could have been planted by now would be seed potatoes, onion sets, cold crops (cabbages, etc) and I even think carrots but not sure so please check before you plant them! When planning your garden spots, keep in mind the Ag Classes that you can enter at this year's Annual State Grange Session. Each class is open to Junior members on up to Subordinate members. There are plenty of different classes for all ages and you do not have to live in the Country to do them. I can't wait to see what Unique containers with plantings come to State Session. Please check the Program Booklet for more details.

We are getting things done slowly this year around the little farm due to the crazy weather and busy schedules. I have yet to get the chicken coop cleaned but that is because when I have the time it is either not nice weather or I am too tired and need to just rest! The pigs were brought to the farm on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for my niece to raise and we have had 2 Boer does and my niece's market goat here since April 11<sup>th</sup>. Chores are in full swing here besides having the chickens to gather eggs from. We aren't getting

many eggs right about 3 eggs a plan to add are getting size of the coop



now as we average day from 7 hens. We more hens but also ready to double the as well!! I can't

wait! We still have our "garage" cats of all different ages and colors. We have had 3 small litters born in the garage and unfortunately, we had 2 litters born in the house! One momma had 4 babies, and each is a different color and the other momma had 3 babies. Oh brother!?! We can't keep them all, but they are so much fun to watch grow up and play in the yard with each other.

Please be mindful that this is the time of year that the country roads and some State Highways will have slow moving farm vehicles on them. If it wasn't for those farmers and their employees we wouldn't have the opportunity to go to farmers' markets or the grocery stores to get the needed foods to feed our families. Please give those big vehicles and tractors as much room as you can without causing problems for yourself or others.

Well, that is member when-Local or Locally ucts! Local asvested but might some with the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I noticed



all for now. Please reever possible to buy Grown / Made prodparagus is being harhave been damaged freeze we had on the while mowing the yard

for the first time on the 24<sup>th</sup> that our rhubarb is at least 1 foot in height already. Our friends are still running their on-farm stores and are both doing well. You are helping small farm families most of the time. Good luck with your garden planning and happy growing until later!



## Plants that are toxic to cats

Azalea (Rhododendron) Common or cherry laurel ~~ Carnations ~~ Cyclamens ~~ Daylilies ~~Dumb Cane (Dieffenbachia) ~~

Elephant's ears (Caladium) ~~Forced indoor blubs such as narcissus (Paper Whites) ~~Holly ~~ Hydrangeas ~~ Mistletoe ~~Oleander ~~ Philodendron ~~ Rubber Plants ~~ True Ivy ~~Winter, or false Jerusalem, cherry



#### Plants that are toxic to Dogs. Caster Bean ~~ Chokecherry ~~ Christmas Rose ~~ Daffodil ~~Elephant's Ear ~~ English Ivy ~~ Foxglove ~~ Holly ~~

Jimsonweed ~~ Lantana (houseplant) ~~ Morning Glory ~~ Mums ~~ Nightshade, also call Belladonna ~~Common garden potato leaves, shoots, sprouts ~~ Rose of Sharon ~~ Yew

Let's Keep our Pets Safe!!

## In Memory Of

Rebecca DeVeni	Calhoun County			
Ben Cunninghan	Charlevoix Cty.			
Marcus Kurburski Harbor Springs #730 Emmet County				
Glen Foust	Adams #286	Hillsdale County		
Marilyn Kies	Mosherville #1351	Hillsdale County		
John Morgan	West Oshtemo #1630	) Kalamazoo Cty.		
Gerald Lintemut	h Fern #803	Mecosta County		
Marie Thelen	Burns #160	Shiawassee Cty.		
Gary Ward	Burns #160	Shiawassee Cty.		
Well Done Good and Faithful Servants				



I want to apologize to all those that get their Michigan Grange News via the USPS for the late delivery on the last issue. It really wasn't my fault. The news was taken to the Durand Post Office on March 1st approximately at 12 noon. The mail is picked up around 2 p.m. so I am told and they "swear" that it was mailed out that same day. From there it supposedly goes to Flint and then to Detroit before it is separated and goes in various directions. So who held it up, I have no idea. I was notified by many that they never got it before the 27th and even some on the April 1st. And some of them were within 10 miles of Durand. We pay 1st class postage for this mailing and I don't know but I think we should have better service than that.

The Durand Postmaster sent a message to someone higher up to call me so I could explain the situation to them and try to get an answer so this wouldn't happen again. She told me they would call me within 24-48 hours, which they never did, so she sent not one more message but two. I've yet to hear from them.

Just makes me mad when I hear another postage increase is in the works and the service just keeps getting worse and worse.

I'm hoping for quicker delivery this time, but who knows.

What's that in the Fire, and not in the Flame? What's that in the Master, and not in the Dame? What's that in the Courtier, and not in the Clown? What's that in the Country, and not in the Town? *Answer on page 2 under calendar* 

## **GRANGE HAPPENINGS**

## Burns Grange #160 Revving up for 150th Anniversary



#### **USDA Promotes Rural Internet**

The availability of \$20 million from USDA will target broadband technical assistance in rural communities and support the development and expansion of broadband cooperatives. The new Broadband Technical Assistance Program will support feasibility studies, network designs and financial assistance applications. USDA will partner with small towns, local utilities, cooperatives and private companies. Cooperatives must propose projects that support establishment or growth of broadband cooperatives that benefit rural communities. Funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

#### New Locations Added to Broadband Map

Nearly three million new broadband-serviceable locations have been added to the Federal Communications Commission's nationwide broadband map that indicates where fixed broadband could be installed. In addition, the



FCC has processed over four million challenges to broadband availability shown on the first iteration of its map. This second version of the map is expected to be released later this spring. Map accuracy is critical because it will be used to fund projects funded by the \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access and Development (BEAD) program.

Taken from the View From The Hill