



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXIX NO. 4

USPS 345-580

JULY-AUGUST, 2023

BE SAFE AND ENJOY



INDEPENDENCE DAY

## 150TH MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 19-21, 2023

Lenawee County Fairgrounds  
602 N. Dean Street, Adrian, MI 49221

Room reservations will be on your own

More details regarding the convention will be in the September-October issue of the Michigan Grange News.

Make sure you are getting your entries in all of the contests ready.

**Reminder...** All report forms which will be mailed soon: Lecturer's/Family Activities, Deaf Awareness, Membership, Junior/Youth, Community Service Report form/Notebooks are all due on **September 10th**.

**Let's get them filled out and sent back to the directors ASAP!**

Page 2 Independence Day Message from Exec. Comm.	Page 3 Zoom/Department Conferences	Page 4 MSD Graduation Membership Year Coming to an End	Page 5 Summer Is Here!	Page 6 Summer is Busy with Community Service	Page 7 & 8 Convention Entries Student Loans Memorials
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[www.michiganstategrange.org](http://www.michiganstategrange.org)



## Michigan Grange News

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<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b> 
<b>July 23-29</b>	<b>Lenawee County Fair</b>
<b>August 6-12</b>	<b>Shiawassee County Fair</b>
<b>August 13-19</b>	<b>Calhoun County Fair</b>
<b>August 13-19</b>	<b>Midland County Fair</b>
<b>August 16-19</b>	<b>Oceana County Fair</b>



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## Independence Day

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, barbeque, 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 God's children. We are called to serve Him and it is such a blessing that we can live in a country where we have the freedom to do so.

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 Christ is much greater for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

I encourage you 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 our heavenly Father.



## MSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### To Michigan Grangers

The Executive Committee is reaching out to the Grange Members for some ideas on some type of money making projects that have worked for your Granges. The State Grange is in need of ways to increase their income.

We do still have our Silent Auction at our State Convention but are looking for more ways to increase the income. If you have ideas please reach out to the Executive Committee members, Tom Smith 269-858-8305, Dale Moore 989-430-6269 or Barbara Johnston 517-442-4555.

We are asking you to please bring items for the Silent Auction at the State Convention October 19, 20, and 21 at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds in Adrian and be prepared to bid and big again.

Thank you,  
The Executive Committee

### Fundraising

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

## **ZOOM/Department Conferences**

We have the ZOOM Account, let's put it to use. In years past, we've held conferences throughout the year featuring a specific department or all the departments in one day. We've held them in different areas of the state. However, attendance at these conferences have been so minimal that it is not feasible for the directors to attend with no one present. So let's try something new. I'll be in discussion with the directors and will be setting up either individual department conferences or a multi-department conference via ZOOM. This will be just like in the past where you'll hear all the new updates to the departments, educational things or possibly learn a new craft, etc. Watch the State Grange Website and Facebook for details.

## **Help Us Help You**

This organization exists based on dues that are paid by our members, to their respective Grange, then to the State Grange, and then to the National Grange. I mention this because if one step in this process is interrupted by someone not paying their dues to the next level for too long there is a breakdown in the financial process. If we at the State Grange are late paying our dues to the National Grange then we must pay a late fee. The Michigan State Grange has the authority under the bylaws to implement a ½ of 1% late fee to any Grange in arrears for their dues. If you feel there may be a chance your Grange is in this position, please use due diligence in getting those caught up to date.

## **Member Personalities**

One of the great things about being a Grange Member that I've appreciated is being able to disagree with a fellow member over a topic, but still be friends at the end of the day regardless of any previous conflicts about an issue. We need to keep in mind that not all personalities will mesh with others and to remember that we are all here for the same great cause. I'm hearing from several Granges that are having conflicts amongst their members. While some issues are legit, others are just a personality conflict. This is the time for those members to sit down and try to find common ground to be able to

move on. This is also something to keep in mind with new members. They don't need to see a Grange in turmoil, that's certainly not a membership incentive. As well as when a member takes on a new office or department director position. We need to have patience while they learn their responsibilities and boundaries. Help them rather than criticize them while they struggle. And encourage them to reach out to the State Officer or Department Director of their position for guidance. Again, we have Zoom, let's utilize it. We can set up one on one Zoom meetings with the State Officer or Department Director to assist you. Technology is a great thing and being able to share your computer screen is helpful.

## **State Session Is just around the corner.**

Time to start working on those resolutions. They are due to the State Office October 1st. The session is being held at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds October 19-20th. Start considering now who to send as your delegates and how many other members are able to attend as well.

Until next time.....



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.



Kevin Young, Master of Community Grange presenting the 1st place award from the 150th Gala raffle, to Linda Preston, Community Grange member. 1st Place was \$250. in various gift cards.

**Congratulations  
Linda!**

*Dedicated to Sister Luanna Swainston***Michigan School for the Deaf Graduation**

What a wonderful graduation ceremony! Four young men and one young lady were the 2023 graduating class at the Michigan School for the Deaf. The graduation took place on June 9th at 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

From the information given by the Principal, Rex Vernon, each of these five students have been excellent students and accomplished a lot in the years they have been attending MSD.

The \$500.00 scholarship was presented to David Gregory Foley, 2023 Valedictorian. He gave a super speech thanking not only his family but also his fellow classmates and the many teachers who helped to make him what he is today.

A very nice young man that is certain to go far in his endeavors.



It was an honor for Sharon Popler, Dale Moore and myself (Peggy Johnston) to attend the graduation and present the scholarship.

**Alexander Graham Bell Camp Fund**

The 2023 donation has been made to the Alexander Graham Bell Camp Fund. \$250.00 was sent recently and we are confident it will be appreciated and used wisely.

**Deaf Fund Donations**

All of the Donations that have been made by Granges across Michigan are greatly appreciated. If your Grange has not made a donation yet, there is still time.

KINDNESS  
IS A  
LANGUAGE  
THE BLIND  
CAN SEE  
AND THE  
DEAF CAN  
HEAR

MARK THAIN  
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**MEMBERSHIP****Membership Year Ending**

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

Happy Summer! We are approaching the halfway point of the calendar year. June 30 is also the end of the Grange membership year.

I hope every Grange has been able to connect with their sister Grange. I look forward to hearing all about these when the annual reports arrive this fall.

As mentioned in a previous Michigan Grange News, I plan to continue the sister Grange program through 2024. I am sure there are Granges struggling to meet with each other. If overall I do not get good feedback, I may change the program for 2024.

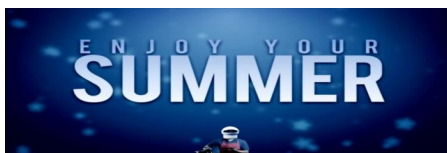
Hopefully your Grange has been able to take in new members. Remember that associate members count too. Think of different ways to get your Grange name out in the community. The farmer's market in Midland allows non profit organizations to have a booth for free one Wednesday during the season. It is a great opportunity for the community to see who we are and what we do.

Reports will be due September 10. This year I will have a second page of information for each Grange to complete. It will cover how the sister Grange program worked (or not) for your Grange.

Enjoy the beautiful days of summer!

Tricia





## **Summer is Here! Have Fun and Be Safe! Grill Food!**

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. Sometimes we forget the “simple” things – stay hydrated, use sun tan lotion and/or insect repellent, have a first aid kit with you, wear a hat and/or sunglasses on sunny days.

There are several of the Lecturer’s/Family Activities contests this year that revolve around summer activities. 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. All Lecturer/Family Activities contests are open to Grange members and Grange friends. 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. Kids younger than 5 may enter contests. Entries for kids will be judged in two age groups: 1) those 8 years old and younger, and 2) those 9-14 years old. Kids need not be Junior Grange members. We are hoping to see more entries from children this year, as last year we had only one. You might want to designate a day with kids/grandkids/great-grandkids to create entries.

### **Photography contest.**

All photography classes are for photos that may be taken in summer months. These classes are: Animals, People, Farm Crops Scene, County Fair and Gardens. Remember that judges tend to like unposed photos that show some kind of action.

### **Home Made Food Contest.**

Classes this year are quick breads, candy, bars (brownies, etc.), and canned items. Classes were determined so that all ages could participate in several of the classes.

### **Family Heritage Contest.**

Since summer is the usual season for family reunions, you might have an opportunity to create a Family Photo Story of photos from the reunion. At least three photos are required. Portrayal of more than one generation is required, but that is not difficult at reunions.

**Grilling** is another great activity in the summer. I found several ideas at [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com). One was made with Italian sausage, red, yellow, and green peppers (mixture or one), and red onion placed on skewers. Some may want to add jalapeno peppers. When nearly done cooking, could opt to add shredded provolone cheese over top. Another idea is baby back ribs. Rub the ribs with chili powder, cumin, paprika, salt and pepper. After grilling for about an hour, barbecue sauce is put on for last five minutes only. I also found a basic burger recipe – Per one pound of ground beef, add one egg, ½ cup fine bread crumbs, salt and pepper to taste. Make ¾ inch patties, and cook covered 6-8 minutes per side to at least 160 degrees in center. I was surprised at the number of recipes for grilling I found online. Bon appetit!



### Summer Is Here !!!!!

Summer is a busy time for all families. We have many Grange activities happening in the next few months. Lets try to support our fellow Granges by attending some of these activities.

We have a new judging matrix this year. A copy of it will be sent to all Community Service chairmen. The focus is still the services you are providing to your community, the continuing services as well as any new ones.

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:

Read a book to a person who is visually impaired.

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.

No project is too small when helping others.

Special awards were outlined in last months Michigan Grange News. Refer to it if you are thinking about nominating a special person in your Grange.

August 31<sup>st</sup> marks the end of our Community Service year. **Your Community Service Report is due on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 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](mailto:roccomaryann@yahoo.com)

Here is a review of information and organization of our Community Service Report.

#### 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.

#### Something to think about

Each State Grange may submit one nominee for each category, Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year. A Dedicated Worker and a Very Important Person Award.

Nominations need to be turned in with your Community Service Report.

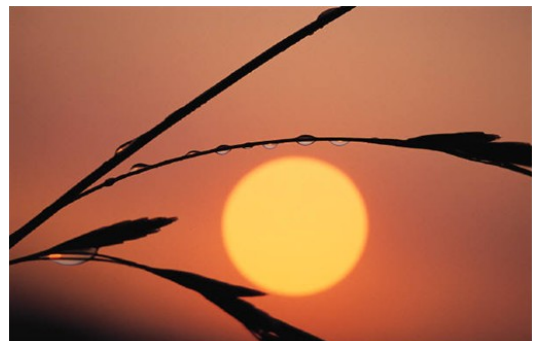
(Nomination forms will be sent to your Community Service chairman soon)..

The National Grange website has information on the Do's and Don'ts

of a Community Service Report.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Stay safe and enjoy your summer!**



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 2023 have gone by way too fast! I hope everyone that planted a garden kept in mind the Agriculture Department classes for the 2023 State Session. I really hope to have a good number of entries in my Department again this year as there were a better number of entries at the 2022 Session.

We are a few short months now from our 2023 State Session that is being held at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds in Adrian. It will be a great time celebrating yet again the 150<sup>th</sup> of the Michigan State Grange.



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 14<sup>th</sup>. I have 2

pigs and a market goat along with 2 Boer Does in the back yard for my niece. Please go support our local youth by attending a Fair near you. There are plenty of things to see besides the amusement rides and fair food if that isn't something you care to do. I remember when I was an exhibitor how it felt to have everyone walk by looking at my animals or still exhibits. It is their time to shine for all of their hard work during the summer months (or winter too) leading up to entry day.

I can't wait!! I am finally getting our chicken coop added on to this summer. My oldest nephew he works in construction is going to help my dad (his grandpa)



build an 8x8 addition to our current 8x8 coop. Of course that means more space to clean out twice a year but it will give us lots more room especially in the winter months for when they are locking in the coop and can't get out in their run. I am hoping to have a small area that I can close off in case of an injury or sick bird, or to use as a "young pen" to

house new pullets before placing with the adult birds. It will be so nice when it is complete and my nephew can't wait to get building with Grandpa.

I don't know about your area but boy has it been very dry around my gan. I have waden I think every was planted Me-weekend. Let's some rain because gardens need it, but need it especially not have irrigation in their fields.



parts of Mich- igher the gar- night since it morial Day hope we get not only do our the farmers those that do

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

## FOUNDATION

## Student Loan

Naomi Fletcher, President 14684 25.75 Road, Rapid City, MI 49878  
Tel: 906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

The Foundation will not meet in July due to the Revival and other commitments this summer. Please watch MGN for the dates in October.

Just a reminder that Student Loan applications are available on the Michigan State Grange website. The deadline for the upcoming school year has already passed, but it's never too early to plan for the next year!

If members have questions or would like to discuss ways to build the Foundation, please email me at Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com. You can also send me a note at my home address at 14684 25.75 Rd, Rapid River, MI 49878. An item on the next agenda will include the possibility of moving away from Student Loans toward a Scholarship program. Your input would be appreciated.

The Foundation would like to extend its sincere condolences to Jackie Bishop and her family at the loss of their beloved Marshall. Well done good and faithful servant.



## Wilma Howe



### Past Michigan State Grange Secretary and Executive Committee

On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, Wilma Jean Howe, age 86, went to be with the Lord, peacefully at her granddaughter's home. Wilma was born on April 22, 1937, in Pennsylvania to Ida and Fred Phelan, who she adored. She was raised with her younger sister and best friend Karen.

She received her degree in Education from Hiram College where she met then married Maynard Howe. Together they raised two sons Joel and Adam and were caring foster parents to many.

Wilma celebrated 57 years as a Grange member, serving as secretary of the Platte Grange for many years. She also served as Michigan State Grange secretary, on the MSG Executive Committee and as Junior Grange leader. She was a fantastic seamstress and sewed over 50 toys each year for charity. She also expressed her creativity through holiday decor and delicious meals, making memorable family gatherings. She was known for her big heart, generosity, and compassion.

Wilma is survived by: her son, Adam (Teresa); sister, Karen; grandchildren, Becky (Nate), James, Fred, Kevin, Veronica, and Scott; along with great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Wilma was preceded in death by: her parents; husband; son, Joel; and brother-in-law, Jon Filliez.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3:00 PM on Monday, June 5, 2023, at the Bennett-Barz Funeral Home, in Beulah. Visitation will take place from 2:00 PM until the time of service at the Funeral Home. Interment will take place at Platte Township Cemetery.

## In Memory Of

## Luanna Swainston



### Past Michigan State Grange Deaf Awareness Dir., Lecturer, and Youth Director

Luanna Kay Swainston, age 82, passed peacefully on June 16, 2023, surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Bernice Roth and her granddaughter Faith Swainston. She is survived by her loving husband of nearly 61 years, Philip J Swainston; three children Jeff (Nancy)

Swainston, Michelle Abbott, and Craig (Kristina) Swainston; grandchildren Alex Swainston, Shannon (Jake) Pomorski, Jessica (Kurt) Steffes, Philip Swainston, Jordan Swainston; and great-grandchildren Jaxson Pomorski, Azalea Swainston, and Carter Pomorski.

Luanna worked in the education field for 22 years, spending a majority of that time teaching at Brown Elementary in the Byron Center school district. Luanna attended Byron Center United Methodist Church. She enjoyed traveling, going to Florida during the winter months, playing card games and Yahtzee, and spending time with her family. She also spent a majority of her life as an active member of the Grange Community.

Visitation will be held from 2 - 5 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at Cook Funeral Home, 2067 84th St. SW, Byron Center, Michigan. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Monday, June 26, with visitation one hour prior to the service, at Byron Center United Methodist Church, 2490 Prescott St. SW, Byron Center, Michigan.

In honor of Luanna, contributions may be made to Michigan State Grange or Byron Center United Methodist Church.

## WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

### A Message from Sandy and Bob Persons

*I received this message from Sandy and Bob Persons recently and they wanted me to share it with all of you.*

Hope all is well with you and all Granges. We are enjoying Florida in spite of Bob's fall and breaking his hip. He's on the slow road to recovery. He's graduated from bed bound to wheelchair to this week walking with a walker.

We would like to let Grangers from around the state know that we send many, many thanks for all the get well cards. Each and everyone brought a smile to his face and happy memories of all things Grange. We wish Florida had some Granges. It's actually got a lot of agriculture in the State but very few Granges. We miss all of you and the wonderful role Grange plays in lives, communities and world in general. Thank you