



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXX NO. 1

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January-February, 2024

## Chris Hamp elected National Grange Master/President



Christine Hamp, from the state of Washington, was elected to the position of the National Grange Master/President at the recent convention in Niagara Falls, NY. Chris is a past Master/President of the Washington State Grange, Past National Grange Lecturer and Overseer. Her and her husband Duane live near Spokane. Congratulations to Chris on this new adventure

## Chris Johnston elected National Grange Steward



Christopher Johnston, from our own state of Michigan was elected Steward for the National Grange at the recent convention in Niagara Falls, NY. Moving up from the office of Gatekeeper. Chris serves as Michigan State Grange Master and lives in Bancroft, MI. Congratulations to Chris!



Eight new officers elected at the National Grange Convention: Chris Hamp, WA, NG Master; John Benedict, NJ, NG Overseer; Tom Gwin, WA NG Lecturer; Chris Johnston, MI, NG Steward; Walter Hartley, RI, NG Ass't Steward; NG Chaplain; Kay Stiles, MD, David Allen, NG Gatekeeper; Barbara Foster, WV, NG Pomona.

Re-elected to their offices were Exec. Comm, Lynette Schaeffer, IL; Buddy Overstreet, TX; Lady Assistant Steward, Kathy Gibson, MA; Treasurer, Joe Goodrich, VT; Secretary, Debbie Campbell, PA; Ceres, Cindy Greer, CO; and Flora, Welina Shufeldt. OK. Not up for re-election this year Susan Noah and Leroy Watson for Exec. Comm. Also elected: Roger Bostwick, High Priest of Demeter; William "Chip" Narvel, Priest Archon; Martha Stefenoni, Priestess Annalist

**Congratulations to all of the newly elected NG Officers**

**Please pull out the Program Book inside this issue and Keep**

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[www.michiganstategrange.org](http://www.michiganstategrange.org)



## Michigan Grange News

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1-1-24	New Years Day
1-15-24	Martin Luther King, Jr Day
2-7-24	MSG Exec. Comm. Meeting
2-14-24	Valentine's Day

♥HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY♥

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## Over Thinking

### God Helps Us Live in Freedom

We need to beware of over thinking things, obsessing about unimportant matters. When our minds are idle, we tend to go into planning mode, attempting to figure things out and make various decisions before we really need to do so. This is an unproductive way of trying to grasp control, and it's a waste of our precious time. Often, we end up changing our minds or forgetting what we even decided. There is a time for planning, but it's definitely not *all* the time, or even most of it.

We should seek to live in the present moment, where God's presence awaits us continually. We should refresh ourselves in God's nearness, letting His love soak into our inner-most being. Relax with God, putting aside problems so we can be attentive to Him and receive more of His love. Our souls thirst for God, but often we don't realize what we're really longing for, an awareness of God's presence. Let God *lead us beside quiet waters* and restore our souls. Just as in our personal relationships, we don't need to say much to communicate deeply, so it is in our relationship with God, the lover of our souls.

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. — Ephesians 3:17-19*

### Good Grangers Make Great Givers!

St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4 has been doing a monthly collection of various articles to benefit those in need.

December's collection of socks for the homeless has had incredible support!

As this is written (Dec. 13) we have collected 248 pair of all colors, styles and sizes. And the beat goes on! Collection is to continue until just before Christmas so 300 is the number to strive for.

Socks will be going to Spero House in Niles and Keystone Place in St. Joseph County. A small bag was also given to the White Pigeon Elementary School.

Burr Oak, Colon and Community Grangers were very generous in their giving, with great support from the community. Special thanks to St. Joseph County COA in Three Rivers for allowing us to have a collection box at the Senior Center in Three Rivers.

*The Stockings were hung at the Grange Hall with Care;*

*To insure no toes feel the cold winter air.*

Collection box at COA

Donations to Spero House

**Just in...346 pairs of socks  
Total!!!**





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## Welcome to 2024

This is the time of year we make plans for the new year. So to start I would like to make plans for a department directors conference in the spring. I will work with the department directors and set a date for that conference. I will be looking for a more central location somewhere in the middle of the state for hosting this conference. For many years we had these conferences and the attendance was usually well represented. I feel that in the last few years we have lost this moment of communication with our local Granges, let's work together to get this back. Watch for more information on this conference. This is also the time to make plans for your Grange activities for the new year! Review what worked well and what might need some tweeking in 2023 and build on those activities for 2024.



## National Session Update

I'm happy to report that the two resolutions that passed at our State Session that went onto National passed. Those two resolutions were regarding the US Postal Service and cash as payment at all establishments. This shows you that our local voices can be heard. Even though our session is many many months away yet, it is never too early to start writing the resolutions for things we feel need to be addressed and/or changed. You've probably already seen that there is new leadership in the National Office. Christine Hamp from Washington was elected as the new National Master/President. There will be some changes coming with a new president and already there are some changes coming to the Junior programming and I'm expecting to see more with the other programs as things are set into motion. Other National Officer changes are: Overseer/Vice President - John Benedik from New Jersey; Lecturer - Tom Gwin from Washington; Steward - Chris Johnston from Michigan; Assistant Steward - Walter Hartley from Rhode Island; Chaplain - Kay Stiles from Maryland; Gatekeeper - David Allen from North Carolina; and Pomona - Barbara Foster from West Virginia.

## National Session Hosting

We are now heavily involved in the planning stages of our region hosting the National Grange Session in Bettendorf, Iowa. As always, we are looking for volunteers that can assist in many ways. If you are planning to attend and willing to help, please let us know. We will be in charge of the hospitality room one day and could use the extra help there as well as a few other things that will need done.

## Fundraising



As you may have seen, Kevin Young has agreed to take on the task of heading up the Fundraising Committee reestablished at the State Session. He's joined on his committee with Russ Hoag at the moment and they are already off running with their first two fund raising projects. See his article here in the Grange News to get more information regarding the Tupperware fundraiser and the Afghan raffle as well as a few other ideas they have. Please consider ordering some Tupperware. It's shipped right to your door! We just got our order yesterday. The links for the Tupperware are on the State Grange Website and Facebook page. If you have any ideas on other fundraisers, please reach out to Kevin.

MAKE YOUR PLANS





# DEAF AWARENESS

## Party Time!

Peggy Johnston, Co Director  
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Sharon Popler, Co-Director  
3640 E. Bath Road  
Morrice, MI 48857  
989.627.3801  
gma4hugs@hotmail.com

### Michigan School for the Deaf Christmas Party December 15, 2023



Thank you to Lynn at MSD, to Ted & Helen Mudd, Tricia Eidsmoe, Randy & Joanne Cebulski, Linda Bula, Evelyn Ward, Dale Moore, and all of the interpreters and helpers from MSD. Couldn't have done it with out you all.



Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive Portage, MI 49024  
Tel: 269-365-0401 jacqueline\_bishop@hotmail.com



## HAPPY NEW YEAR! NEW CONTEST!

It's that time of the year that we consider what we have done, what we want to start to do, and what we

want to continue doing in the coming year. This process, for me, begins with developing the coming year's Michigan State Grange Lecturer's Program. What stays in? What should be retired? What new contests might be fun for members to enter in the coming year? This year, we listened to several comments we received regarding last year's contests that should be changed, and so we did make changes with regard to those comments.

The new contest that I want to highlight in this *Michigan Grange News* is "Traditional or Unusual Family Recipe Contest". I am quite excited about this contest, and since Grangers are known for food and potlucks, it seemed that this could create some interest. We tend to hear a lot about people's special recipes around Christmas, so thinking if you made any of those in December might be a place to start. I started thinking of what possibilities are for my family, and you may have some of the same questions I had. Should I pick a recipe we currently make? Should I choose a recipe from my childhood that we still talk about, possibly made by my grandmothers? Should it be dessert, vegetables, meat, ....? Any of these are fine. Even canned items could work. I hope to see a large variety. The judging criteria are: 1) uniqueness of entry, and 2) presentation of entry. These criteria may help you decide which recipe to choose.

The entry is to consist of a) the recipe and directions for making; b) 1-2 paragraphs description about the recipe. This might include how long your family has made this recipe, if it is only served at a special event, who the originator of this recipe is if known, why your family thinks this recipe is special and/or unique, etc.; and c) optional photo. The entry will be displayed on card stock like a poster. The "paragraphs" may be presented as bullet points, and need not be in full sentence form. All may be hand-

written. Since presentation is part of the judging criteria, feel free to add creativity to your entry. This might include adding some color with borders or simply items mounted on colored paper. If a photo is not possible, you might be able to find a similar item from a magazine. I did not specify a size requirement, but the smallest might be 8 1/2" X 11, and the largest probably twice that size. These sizes are guidelines, so that you have an idea what we are thinking.

I am hoping that there are enough entries in this contest so that I can gather them into a small cookbook to be distributed the following year at State Grange and/or made available at the Michigan State Grange website. Lecturers might want to have all members bring their recipes to a meeting to share. You might have just the recipe brought, or you could have them bring a completed entry. Have fun with this contest!

## Save the 2024 Program Book from this Michigan Grange News

The Program Book is where the Lecturer's programs are detailed. I will be highlighting parts of the program in each newsletter and in *Michigan Grange News* articles. Check it out, and consider ways that you could promote these contests to your Grange members. Remember - Grange friends that are not yet members may enter all contests as well. In addition, children are encouraged to enter the contests, whether your Grange has a Junior Grange or not.

Very cute Snowmen Cheese sticks decorated for each of those attending the Christmas Party at MSD.

Thanks to Sharon Popler for her artistic abilities.

They were enjoyed by many.



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 2024 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 so many Granges that participated in displaying their Sesquicentennial Gala Boards. Thank you for creating your Grange's storyboards.

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, 2023 – August 31, 2024

### Community Service Report Due:

**September 10th, 2024.** 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 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

### *Start the new Year with these words of wisdom*

- *It isn't what you do, it's the way you do it.*
- *Don't make commitments you don't plan to keep.*
- *Sometimes things that hurt, teach.*
- *Teaching someone to do something is like relearning it yourself.*
- *Mind your own business.*

**Happy New Year Everyone!!!**

### *How to be Lazy — and Love It*

*It's wonderful to be lazy — if you know how. It spares your heart, saves your energy, relaxes your mind — and you needn't feel at all guilty about it if you confine your laziness to these approved ways, recommended by a psychologist:*

- ◆ *Be too lazy to frown, fidget, and worry.*
- ◆ *Don't wear yourself out carrying the needless weights of grudges, prejudices and envy.*
- ◆ *Listen more than you talk, and see how much better you feel after almost any meeting or gathering.*
- ◆ *Don't run to catch a bus or trolley. The next one is better for your heart.*
- ◆ *Don't rush for a bargain that takes more out of you than it saves for your pocketbook.*
- ◆ *Don't knock yourself out trying to park your car in a space too small for a scooter. Better to pay a parking fee at a lot than a bill at a hospital.*
- ◆ *Don't bother to quarrel over small things — like a card game. Let the other fellow think he's right when it really doesn't matter.*

**Enjoy life!!**

## AGRICULTURE

### What to Plant?

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

Happy New Year everyone! Wow, 2023 is in the books and 2024 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. What we have lacked in snow we have made up in rain!! With as much rain that has fallen, the farmers around here haven't been able to get all of their crops out of the fields yet.

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 2023 in the program book for 2024 but have made a few changes to see if we can double the entries we had for the Agriculture Department yet again for 2024. 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 2024 State Session.

Well, that is all for now. I have to do a Quarterly Bulletin now as the Directives state that all Department Directors are required to do a quarterly bulletin. I am not sure what it will entail but I will try to provide some good ideas, information or fun items for each quarter.

Here is hoping 2024 is another great Grange year for all and brings bounty to our Agriculture Neighbors and Friends!

Until later....

## FOUNDATION

### Continued Support

Naomi Fletcher, President 14684 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878  
Tel: (H)906-644-2319 (C)906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

Happy New Year one and all! The holidays are now past us and we look forward to another successful year of the Michigan State Grange Foundation. Last issue of MGN listed our many accomplishments and goals met. With your continued support, the Foundation will be able to provide educational assistance to students in need, Michigan Grange program support and community level supports to like minded foundations in Michigan.

The next MSG Foundation meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 2024 via Zoom beginning at 3:00. If you have any questions or wish to add an item to the agenda, please let Jackie Bishop, our new Secretary/Treasurer, or myself know, and we'll make sure you receive the Zoom link to join our meeting.

*"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."* Winston Churchill

### MSG FOUNDATION.

Jackie Bishop, Sec/Treas.

479 Tuscan Drive

Portage, MI 49024

Please accept my donation to help support the Mission of the Michigan State Grange Foundation.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Donations made by: \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your Support!

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

Hello Fellow Grangers of Michigan. I am writing to you today as the newly “appointed” (I offered) Chairperson of the Michigan State Grange Fundraising Committee. As of right now, the committee consists of myself and Russ Hoag of Community Grange #1675. The main reason for this informational letter is to announce a project that we are looking for help with from our knitters and crocheters. Russ has offered his talents but needs help from each of you. Russ has offered to sew together knitted or crocheted squares into an Afghan that will then be raffled off with all proceeds going to the MSG General Fund.

**Here are the requirements:** each square must be 10”x10” and use yarn of any color or thickness you would like but just no WOOL please. You may knit or crochet and it can be any stitch or design (must be a square). The goal is to make the Afghan a 10 square by 10 square size, of course keeping the knit from the crochet. DO NOT block your square(s). Once we have the finished item, we will then have Connie Johnston apply to the State of Michigan for the raffle license and print up the tickets to start selling. If anyone would like to donate a few gift cards for places that are located throughout Michigan, we would put together a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for the raffle as well. We would like the squares to be mailed to our address which is 60822 Creek Rd, Niles, MI 49120 or to PO Box 714 Niles, 49120. All squares need to be received by March 1<sup>st</sup>. This will give Russ the rest of March to get it put together with hopes of applying for the license in April.

Have no fear about the number of squares needed! We do not expect all the squares to come from just Grange members. Russ has an active YouTube channel called “It’s Raining Yarn” with over 1,600 subscribers within the United States and in several other Countries. He has asked them if they wish to help us with this to do the same size square and send them to his PO Box in Niles. If we receive more than the number of squares needed for one Afghan, then he will put another one together or whatever size allowed by the remaining squares.

## UPDATE

Our Tupperware Fundraiser has been extended to Jan 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. There is a link on the State Grange’s website to view items and place your order online.

All orders ship directly to your address. Our Tupperware consultant is one of Community Grange’s vendors at our Bi-Annual Rummage sales. She is sharing 50% of her commission as our fundraiser income! We do not have any costs to do this fundraiser.

We are looking to bring back “Pennies from Heaven” and “Grange Dollars”. We will take your loose coins at the next State Session in October 2024. The “Grange Dollars” we will be happy to take those at the State Session as well. What we mean by Grange Dollars, on each Dollar bill there is a large letter. We would like to collect any of them that has a “G” on them.

If you have any other fund-raising ideas, please let me know. We might look at trying another Tupperware Fundraiser later in 2024 as well. Until then...

Kevin Young, Chairperson  
MSG Fundraising Committee

## MEMBERSHIP

## Grange Visits

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

Welcome to 2024! A new year which means it is a chance for a fresh start and clean slate for your Grange year.

The Program Book contains the 2024 membership program which is a repeat of the 2023 membership program. I would love to see EVERY Grange participate in the program this year!

Here are the pairings for this year.

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

I attended the National Grange convention in Niagara Falls and there is a buzz in the air again this year 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!