



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXX NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MARCH-APRIL, 2024

APRIL 2024 — GRANGE MONTH

Get ready to explore the rich history and vibrant culture of rural communities during Grange Month—a month-long celebration of agriculture, community, and tradition.

During the month of April there are plenty of exciting events and activities planned by local Granges to honor their heritage and engage with their communities. So let's join in on the fun and celebrate this important organization!

How to celebrate Grange Month—

1. Host a Grange potluck — who doesn't like to eat! Invite members of your community to come together for a potluck celebrating the history and traditions of the Grange. Encourage everyone to bring a dish featuring local, seasonal ingredients.
2. Organize a community service project— Get involved in your community by organizing a service project such as a neighborhood clean-up or volunteering at a local charity. This is a great way to embody the spirit of the Grange and make a positive impact.
3. Attend a Grange meeting or event —maybe a good time to visit your sister Grange (Membership Dept). Many Granges hold meetings and events throughout the year that are open to the public. Take this opportunity to learn more about the organization and connect with other members of the community.
4. Learn about local agriculture — find out where that food you like to eat comes from. The Grange has a rich history in promoting and supporting agriculture. Take the time to learn about the local farming community and the challenges they face, and consider ways to support and advocate for them
5. Host a barn dance or even a Grange hall dance. Gather friends and family for a traditional barn dance, complete with live music and square dancing. This is a fun and festive way to celebrate Grange Month and support local musicians.
6. Make it an awards night — honor all those wonderful people in and around the Grange that have done such fabulous jobs all year long. There are many awards you can give out and even make up a few, it won't hurt. Be sure to check your members years of service and honor them with the appropriate awards.

The best thing to do is to make it family and friends friendly, all ages. Invite lots of people from all walks of life, have a great program, awards, lots of interesting facts about your Grange, ask for ideas how you can become involved in other projects in your area, just have FUN, FUN, FUN! And don't forget to feed them!! Encourage everyone to join your organization and don't be afraid to ASK! ASK! ASK!

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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.

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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

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Postmaster send address changes:
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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

March 15 Jamborees at Burns and West Oshtemo Granges

March 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 31 Easter

April 1 April Fools Day

April Grange Month

April 15 Tax Day



Whole page \$150.00

1/2 page \$90.00

1/4 page / business card \$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.

6 issues per year, bi-monthly
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God's Peace

God's Peace

Missing a loved one is a very lonely feeling.

The only thing to really resolve the ache of loneliness is to actually see the person you're missing. But many times, it's not that easy. You may miss your mother who passed away last year, your daughter who is away at college, or your spouse on a long business trip. Even though it may not be an easily fixable situation, there is a longing in your heart that cannot be denied.

It's a mixture of sadness, grief, discontentment, loneliness, and maybe even a bit of anxiety when you're missing someone you love. When you miss someone, that void can't truly be filled unless they are in your arms, hugging you. But that doesn't answer the question of how you can get to sleep tonight, when you're feeling their absence so tangibly.

The answer is simple, but it's not simplistic. Call to God to fill your void.

He hears you, and He will come to your aid. It may not be in the way you want or expect. It won't mean a certain loved one will come jetting back to you in the next twenty-four hours. It doesn't mean that you won't feel a palpable absence. But when you cry out to the Lord, He is quick to bring compassion and comfort. He will be your refuge, dear friend. He will console you in His perfect, timely, all-knowing way.

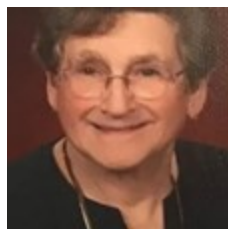
We can find comfort in the presence of our God — especially when we are troubled or missing a loved one.

2 Corinthians 1:4 says that the God of all comfort "comforts us in all our tribulation." Cling to that truth, dear sister or brother. Look for the Lord's presence today. He can fill that empty, cavernous hole that feels so desperate. Pour out your heart to the Lord; He will sustain you in your most pain-filled moments. He will provide a light in the darkness; He is a reprieve in the pain, a provider to the weary, and a strength to the weak.

In Memory of

Esther Gagnon

January 17, 1927-February 9, 2024
MSG Treasurer 2006-2010



Sister Esther graduated from Adrian High School in 1945. She married James Gagnon in May of 1950. She had been employed by Bohn Aluminum, Gerity's and 19 years she worked for the Adrian Public Schools. She had been a member of North Adrian Grange since 1946.

She is survived by four children, Lenore, David, Charlotte and Richard. A brother Jerry, 11 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

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Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.comVeru

The National Grange Building

A couple years ago we had a discussion at our convention about the possible sale of the National Grange Building at 1616 H St NW in Washington DC. After a few years of the building being on the market, an agreement has been reached. We have sold the building to an investor from Texas that is looking to refurbish the building for its original purpose of multiple office spaces. The building was sold for \$10.3 million. Many Grangers and staff have spent the last couple weeks volunteering their time to bring everything up from the basement and sub-basement and clearing out the offices on the eleventh floor. We will have six months of rent-free space on the first and second floor while they look for a new location. While it is the end of an era we are reminded that the National Grange doesn't live at 1616 H. St. NW it lives in every Grange member in the country.

Part of this move, they have been unearthing a lot of Grange history and memorabilia and there is starting to be a push for a Grange Museum. Something that is open to the public, near lodging and an airport. You may be hearing more about this down the road, right now it's just in the wishful thinking stage. And a shout out to Roland Winter on his Grange Museum in the basement. We heard several compliments on his collection while at the Leadership Conference!

April 20, 2024

A day of Grange learning

Saturday April 20 we will be hosting a day of Grange learning at the William J Brake Community Center located in Grange Acres in Haslett. This will be from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm with a potluck lunch. There will be presentations from several Department Directors and yours truly. We will discuss this year's program and maybe a return of the Jeopardy game we had at convention. Come for the learning, come for the fun, come for the fellowship, but mostly come for what Grangers are known for. the food. Coffee will be provided throughout the day.



Grange Month

April is Grange Month. This is a fantastic time to celebrate all things Grange. Most Granges give out their community citizen of the year, law enforcement, firefighter, teacher, VIP (Very Important Patron). Please utilize these awards to recognize the individuals in your community that are making a difference.

National Grange Leadership Conference

Formerly know as the Masters Conference then Presidents Conference, this is now the NG Leadership Conference open to Grange leaders from across the country. We met Presidents Day weekend in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, with over 80 leaders in attendance. There was a lot of strategic planning, leadership training, mission statement, and vision statement work.

The updated National Grange Mission Statement is:

"Strengthening individuals, families and communities through service, education, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness."

MAKE YOUR PLANS



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The long and cold winter months are here, and we need to be take preventative measures to make sure we don't have problems with our ears and our hearing aids. Moisture buildup and middle ear infections are usually more prevalent in cold weather, and hardware and performance of hearing aids can often be impaired when exposed to water and wind. Taking these measures can save you from problems down the road.

1. Clean or suction debris from any exposed areas on you aid, and double check the receiver, battery contacts, and microphone ports.
2. Properly remove any earwax from your ear canal.
3. Keep your hearing aids dry. Consider getting a dehumidifier, which is a specialized drying canister for hearing aids. Store your hearing device in this canister overnight with the batteries taken out and the battery doors left open. If you don't have a dehumidifier, remember to regularly remove your hearing aid batteries and clean everything with a dry cloth.

If your hearing aids get wet, note these emergency tips,

1. Immediately wipe them dry, remove the ear mold if your aid has one, and take out the batteries.
2. Dry the battery compartment using a Q-tip or a safe cleaning tool.
3. Place your hearing aids in a dehumidifier or Ziploc bag with silica gel packets
4. Let your devices sit for 24 hours.

Keep your ears dry.

1. Water is the number one culprit for ear infections, which, if left untreated, can cause inflammation and temporary hearing loss. Cases of extreme cold can also aggravate certain preexisting conditions like exostosis (a bone spur located in the ear canal).
2. Wear outdoor gear to protect your ears and pre-

vent water damage of your device. When outdoors, wear wrist and forehead sweatbands to help intercept moisture. Earmuffs help safeguard your ears and hearing devices against snow and freezing temperatures. When in a noisy area, particularly with loud snow blowers or snowmobiles, wear over-the-ear protection instead of in-the-ear varieties that have a tendency to trap liquid in the ear.

3. Give extra attention to children with hearing loss. In winter months, children are more prone to ear infections, which can aggravate any existing hearing impairments. Be mindful of any middle ear infection symptoms such as irritability, pain, loss of balance, trouble paying attention, or increased hearing difficulty. To help prevent infections and buildup of moisture-related bacteria, clean your child's ear mold with an audiologist-approved cleaning agent.

Did you know? **Hearing impaired** is the general term used to describe any level of hearing loss.

Hard of Hearing, describes a person who has problems hearing and who communicates by listening speaking and lip reading.

Deaf/Deafness describes profound hearing loss many deaf people communicate with some form of sign language while some are able to speak most of the time a combination of the two is used.

We will be looking forward to seeing you and discussing Deaf Awareness with you on April 20th.

Peggy and I hope your enjoying these Winter months and are preparing for Spring

ANSWERS TO THE MANY FACES ON
PAGES 6 AND 8
1. C. Michigan State University
2. D. Medical Doctor
3. A. George Armstrong Custer
4. C. Joe Louis
5. B. and C. Roger Chaffee & Jack Lousma
6. C. Danny Thomas
7. B. Stevie Wonder
8. B. Sojourner Truth



Happy Spring! With spring comes a sense of renewal as the buds start coming out on the trees and early flowers begin to bloom. As a result of our fairly mild winter, this may already be happening for some of you. My main focus this issue is with regard to Grange Month in April. You may have already started to plan activities your Grange will be hosting or be involved in during April, but if not, March provides the opportunity to get those plans made. The traditional ideas used in the past were open houses or meetings for the community, press releases to local newspapers, displays of Grange work at libraries, but I challenge your Grange to be creative to find new ways to promote your Grange. This is not a task only for Lecturers, but for the entire membership.

As you can see in the new visual above, the National Grange emphasis for the next two years will be Grange Strong: Rooted, Resilient, United. The National Grange Communication Director, Phil Vonada, provided information regarding these words. These may be used as a theme not only for a Grange Month event, but also throughout the year for additional activities. I list a few ideas, and you may come up with more/better ones for your particular Grange setting.

Grange Strong: Highlight strengths of your Grange and your Grange members – your community event, Newspaper, ...

Rooted: The word coordinates with Grange roots. In what ways has your Grange put down roots for the benefit of your community? How has it made a difference?

Resilient: Given that Michigan State Grange is over 150 years old, provide information about how your Grange in its longevity has worked to make your community better and stronger – perhaps through a variety of community service activities.

United: This can have a very broad connotation – united with other Granges in your area; united within your Grange involving mixtures of ages, ideas; united with other community organizations, united with National Grange initiatives.

During Grange Month, on April 10, I have the opportunity to provide a virtual program in the Historical Society of Michigan “History Hounds Lecture Series”. The program is at 7 pm. Individuals may register at <https://www.hsmichigan.org/programs/history-hounds>. There is a \$7 fee for non-members. This event will be a one-hour event, with questions/answers at the end. This is the organization that the Michigan State Grange received a plaque commemorating 150 years of existence.

A few special dates to remember: March 11 – Daylight Savings time begins (2 am), St. Patrick’s Day – March 17, March 19 - first day of Spring; Holy Week (Christian) begins March 24; Ramadan begins March 10 at sundown. On the less well-known side is March 1 – National Share a Smile Day and World Compliment Day; March 19 – Let’s Laugh Day; April 11 – National Pet Day; April 15 – Tax Day; Passover (Jewish) begins April 22.

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Wishing everyone a Happy Saint Patrick Day! And a Blessed Easter.

Punxsutawney Phil failed to see his shadow so, Spring should be right around the corner. Lets hope Michigan doesn't play any tricks on us.

In reviewing your Community Service reports evaluation, there is a new emphasis on new community service projects. It's important to reach out to areas in your community where you can give a helping hand.

Here are some ideas to think about.

Read to a sick child in the hospital.
Visit the nursery and rock the newborns.
Help with Spring Cleanup in your community.
Organize an Easter Egg Hunt.

Our Granges are doing many exciting projects throughout their communities I would love to share something your Grange is or has done this year. Just let me know and I'll put it in the Michigan Grange News.

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? 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**.

Community Service Reports are due September 10th, 2024.

A Little Quiz — The Many Faces of Michigan

1. **President Theodore Roosevelt and President William Clinton both visited Michigan and spoke at the same place. Can you name it?**
A. The University of Michigan, B. Mackinac Island, C. Michigan State University, D. Michigan State Fair.
2. **Before J. H. Kellogg established the cereal industry in Battle Creek, for which he is noted, he worked in another capacity. Do you know what he did?**
A. Architect, B. Lawyer, C. General Store owner, D. Medical doctor, E. Professor, F. Dietician
3. **A man who became famous as a general in the United States Army first won acclaim in Michigan as the commander of Michigan's Cavalry Brigade. He lived with his family in Monroe, Michigan, after moving here from Ohio. Can you identify him?**
A. George Armstrong Custer, B. Robert E. Lee, C. Dwight D. Eisenhower, D. General Ulysses S. Grant, E. Douglas MacArthur, F. Lewis Cass
4. **This young man, known as the "Brown Bomber," moved to Detroit as a boy and took up amateur boxing. Can you name him?**
A. Mohammad Ali, B. Rocky Marciano, C. Joe Lewis, D. Sugar Ray Robinson, E. Thomas Hearns, F. Leon Spinks.
5. **Michigan citizens are proud to claim one or more of the following U.S. astronauts as their own. Can you name them?**

Continued on page 8

AGRICULTURE

Spring Has Sprung?

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Has Spring sprung already?!! This winter has been crazy since the first of the year. We have been seeing temperatures in the upper 40s to lower 50s in my part of the state. This isn't good on the fruit trees let alone animals and humans too! The snow has not been very much this winter down here either. If we haven't had snow we have had plenty of rain though. 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 a number of the classes from last State Session and added a few suggested classes to see how they go too. 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 had a wonderful turn out at the 2023 State Session, and I hope it continues to GROW!! Please consider one of the classes if you

have never entered the Ag Department. Agriculture is one of the main reasons the Grange was formed.

I look forward to another great Grange year as we celebrate 151 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, Charity and Fidelity!!

FOUNDATION

Student Loans

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

We've had a mild winter this year under the circumstances. I hope this finds you all well and waiting for not only Easter but Spring to bring us green grass, sunshine and outside activities for all to enjoy.

Don't forget the Michigan State Grange Foundation has student loan funds available for anyone pursuing higher education in any field. Whether you're attending a community college, university, state college, or trade school, you may be eligible for a student loan of up to \$1,000 annually for a maximum of four years. Please visit the Michigan State Grange website, look up Foundation, and the application is there for you to print, complete and submit. The Foundation Board reviews applications in June for awarding for the fall semester, so you still have a few months. But don't wait! No time like the present as you choose where you'll be attending your next adventure in education.

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: _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Address _____ Anniversary _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Deceased _____

Donations made by: _____ Other _____

Thank you for your Support!

FUNDRAISING

Help Raise Money

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

Greetings from the Fund-Raising Committee. I just wanted to bring you up to date with what we have going on right now. The Tupperware Party that we have been hosting online is still open until March 15th. We will be closing it for sure at this point. At the writing of this article, we have reached \$1,000 in sales!! That means we will get Host Credit to purchase items from their catalog. We will have those items for sale or to be used in the Silent Auction at the 2024 MGS Annual Session. We will also be receiving a portion of the Tupperware Consultant's commission after the party has been closed.

We are still taking squares, either crocheted or kitted, for the Blanket raffle. I haven't counted them lately but the last time I did count we had over 80 squares. This Blanket is going to be a colorful masterpiece once Russ gets it all sown together. If you are working on squares and haven't sent them please still do! We will take them even if we have the 100 that is needed for the Blanket. Another project or raffle item will be made from them. As soon as the blanket is sown together, we will have Connie Johnston apply for the raffle license and print tickets for everyone to help sell or purchase. We will be drawing the winning ticket(s) at the Annual Session in October. Stay tuned for raffle details and possible other raffle prizes to be added. If you have any suggestions of a few other prizes please let me know.

I hope everyone is collecting their loose coins to bring or send to the MSG Annual Session this October. We are also collecting Grange Dollars. If you look at a Dollar bill, there is a letter on the left side and if that letter is a "G", that is a Grange Dollar. We are planning to have a competition between the Granges and whichever Grange collects the most will get a framed Grange Dollar to hang in their Hall or meeting location. There might be other things awarded to the top Granges collected as well. Let's make this project a fun project to see how many we can collect. At the writing of this article, I have already collected almost \$50 worth of the Grange Dollars. A few of them even came from my Pomona Grange!

If you have other suggestions for fund raisers, please let me know. We are all ears and no suggestions will be turned away without being discussed.

MEMBERSHIP

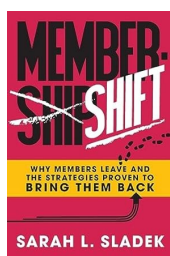
Sister Grange

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

Welcome to spring!

In the January/February Michigan Grange News were the pairings for the sister Grange program. There is a change for a couple of Granges from last year. Hopefully each Grange has noticed this.

I still believe this will be a great opportunity to share information with each other which is why the program is being repeated. Please make a plan to reach out to each other soon.



I started to read the book "MemberShift" by Sarah Sladek. I plan to use this information for the next Membership Bulletin. As many Granges are discovering, it is not easy to recruit and retain members. I hope to provide information to be able to help all Granges overcome this obstacle.

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

The Many Faces...continued from page 6

A. Gus Grissom, B. Roger Chaffee, C. Jack Lousma, D. Edward White

6. **This famous Michiganian, born in Deerfield in 1914, although well-known as a radio and television celebrity, may be best known for establishing St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Can you name him?**

A. Bing Crosby, B. Ed Sullivan, C. Danny Thomas, D. Buster Keaton

7. **This singer/musician/songwriter overcame obstacles to become one of this state's most endeared and admired citizens. His musical contributions have brought sunshine to people around the world. Who is it?**

A. Ronnie Millsap, B. Stevie Wonder, C. Berry Gordy, D. Paul Anka

8. **This black woman was raised speaking Dutch. As a freed slave she tracked down several of her five children who were sold away from her. She later became a powerful speaker for the abolitionist cause. Who is she?**

A. Harriett Tubman B. Sojourner Truth, C. Harriet Beecher Stowe, D. Marian Anderson

Answers are on page 4