



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXX NO. 3

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MAY-JUNE, 2024

A DAY OF LEARNING WAS HELD



The Day of Learning was held at the Wm. J. Brake Building in Grange Acres, in Haslett.

It had been awhile since we had held a conference of any kind there, but it still serves us well.



There were representatives present from Burns #160, Burr Oak #1350, Colon #215, Community # 1675, Fredonia #1713, Gratiot #1898, Home #129, Kinney #754, Pittsfield Union #882. Lots of information was shared throughout the day, as well as fellowship, fun and a whole bunch of great food!



Special Thank You to W.M. Chris Johnston and Connie for planning this day. It was great to be back to a Grange Conference!



Jeopardy has never been so much fun! Congrats to the winners!!



A shout out to Worthy National Master, Chris Hamp for speaking to us via zoom. Also to all of the MSG Directors that gave some very informative workshops for their departments.

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Michigan Grange News

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Compassion for the Hurting

Babe Ruth, one of the most famous baseball players of all time, finished his career in a slump. According to the legendary story, he was ridiculed mercilessly after one game as he made his way back to the dugout. The fans continued to boo and yell obscenities until a little boy jumped the fence and ran to Babe's side.

The child threw his arms around Babe's legs, crying as he fiercely hugged him. Moved by the young boy's display of affection, Ruth gently lifted the boy up into his arms. As they walked off the field, the man and boy cried together.

This young boy demonstrated the true nature of compassion, he sympathized with the sorrows of another. His example reminds us that a compassionate man does not stand detached from the sufferings of others. Rather, he steps into the world of the hurting and feels the pain and anguish of the one suffering. And he expresses his compassion through sincere concern, through a listening ear, a shed tear.

The world is full of hurting people, many who are longing for a compassionate friend. Are you willing to be that friend?

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
~Romans 12:15~

FUNDRAISING

Update on Fund Raising

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Well hello everyone, we have a number of fundraising projects going on or completed right now. The first project I want to talk about is the Tupperware Online Sale. We didn't have the number of orders that I had hoped for but we did make it to \$1,030 in retail sales. By doing so, we earned \$206.00 in host credits to be used on product out of the current Tupperware catalog. I spent right down to the last penny!! We will be using the 6 items for Silent Auction baskets at our Annual State Session this October. We also earned some of the Consultant's profits that she earned from the \$1,030. She kept \$65 for her costs to run the Online Sale and the \$6.18 sales tax that Tupperware charged on our \$206 of free items. I have deposited a check for \$186.32 towards Fundraising efforts!!

Another project that is ongoing is the collection of Grange Dollars! If you are not sure what a Grange Dollar is, ask someone to show you a Dollar Bill. If it has a "G" on it, that is a Grange Dollar. We are holding a contest between the Granges of which one collects and turns in the most Grange Dollars at the State Session in Charlevoix. For the Grange that turns in the most Grange Dollars, they will receive a Grange Dollar framed and a Meijer Gift Card for the winning Grange to use as they wish. What Grange couldn't use a gift card to purchase supplies for a fund raiser or for things needed in their Hall if they still own one. **Cont'd on page 8**

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Grange Month

I hope everyone had a fantastic Grange Month in April and were able to open your doors for programs and awards. Hopefully even gaining a new member or more.

Day of Learning

I'd like to thank everyone that attended the Day of Learning as well as the Department Directors that presented their program. We were a small group of attendees, but we learned a lot. We started off the meeting with a zoom greeting from the National Master, Chris Hamp. Following that we had several of our directors present their programs. There are a lot of new contests for State Session so be sure to go through the program book and check them out. There is something there for everyone of every skill level. And of course we outdid ourselves with the potluck, something Grangers are known for. We had quite the spread and there was plenty. We ended the day with a fun game of Grange Trivia and door prizes.

Grange Picnic and Degree Day

At the State Session in October, there was a resolution brought forth and passed to have a Grange Picnic and Degree Day. Plans are currently in the works for such a day. So save the date of August 4th for a day of ritual and fellowship. Burr Oak Grange has offered to host the event. I believe there will be a hog roast potluck lunch and plans are even in the works for a special guest to attend. The High Priest, Roger Bostwick, has been invited and is planning to be there. Tom Smith is taking up the lead on this project and I'm sure will be in contact with folks to help form teams for doing the first four degrees.

Midwest Leadership Conference

Coming up June 21-23 is the Midwest Grange Leaders Conference. This conference is for all members, you don't have to hold a leadership position in the Grange. The conference will be filled with workshops, fellowship and fun. This year is Ohio's turn to host. They have it set up to be at Bowling Green State University. The cost to attend is \$130.00 a person, which includes Friday's dinner, all three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday in a double occupancy room. There are other hotel options across

from the campus and the rate will be adjusted for those that stay in a hotel. I encourage everyone to attend! You can find the registration form on the website or on the Facebook page. Please register by June 1st.

State Session

Plans are being worked out for the State Session in Charlevoix October 17-20th. But now is the time to start thinking about resolutions. These can be done throughout the year, they don't need to be done just before the session. I'm sure there is a change that is needed somewhere, whether it be in politics, within the Grange, or even your local community; a resolution is the perfect starting point to make that change. As a grassroots organization, it all begins with you. If you need help with writing a resolution, please feel free to contact me, I'll be happy to help.

On June 1st Past MSG Master Roland Winter will turn 98 years young. Please join us in sending him Happy Birthday wishes. Send them to: 15150 A Drive North, Marshall, MI 49068.



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**THE STORY
 OF
 BEETHOVEN'S
 DEAFNESS**

Imagine directing an orchestra you

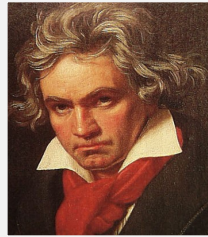
can't hear. Or playing a sound-

less piano for a staring audience.

Most known classical composer Ludwig van Beethoven struggled with deafness—but many don't realize how much of a struggle it was. Beyond composing without hearing a note, Beethoven grappled with living in the 1800's when few understood deafness, hindering his ability to communicate, work as a musician and even find a place to live. How he dealt with this deafness is one of the great stories of humanity, not just of music.

Beethoven began losing his hearing in his mid-20's, after already building a reputation as a musician and composer. The cause of his deafness remains a mystery, though modern analysis of his DNA revealed health issues including large amounts of lead in his system. At the time, people ate off of lead plates—they just didn't know back then. Continuing to compose and conduct, he changed lodgings constantly in Vienna, which could be due to his landlords frustration with him pounding on his piano at all hours. He continued performing publicly as a musician, which was necessary for many composers of the age. That's how they got their pieces out, not just composing but performing. For the longest time he didn't want to reveal his deafness because he believed, justifiably, that it would ruin his career.

Once his hearing was fully gone by age 45, Beethoven lost his public life with it. Giving up performing and public appearances, he allowed only select friends to visit him, communicating through written conversations in notebooks. His deafness forced him to become a very private, insular person over the course of time. A common question is how he



continued composing without his hearing, but this likely wasn't too difficult.

Music is a language, with rules. Knowing the rules of how music is made, he could sit at his desk and compose a piece of music without hearing it. Beethoven's style changed, however, as he retreated from public life. His famous Sixth Symphony also reflects his different life in deafness. Also known as the Pastoral Symphony, the musical work conveys the peace of the countryside, where he escaped city life after losing his hearing. In terms of his deafness, this was a very important symphony, reflecting the importance as an individual to keep his sanity by being in the country.

Beethoven wrote in a letter in May of 1810, "**How delighted I shall be to ramble for a while through bushes, woods, under trees, through grass, and around rocks.**" Beethoven was a master of the language of music, which is about the creation of sound.

DAY OF LEARNING CONFERENCE

On April 20th the conference was held, and a lot of information was delivered by our State Master and many Directors. It was a super day of fellowship, a wonderful array of food for the potluck, which the Grange is noted for, and then continued workshops from the directors. Those of you that were able to attend, it was soooo good to see you and many idea's were talked about. The Grange Jeopardy Game had us all working our brains for some of the answers !!!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED !!!

GRANGE ETIQUETTE

1. Never miss Grange unless it is absolutely necessary.
2. Be there on time.
3. Take your whole family. The Grange is not a convention that a family should merely send a delegate.
4. Be attentive. Go to learn, not to whisper, lounge or sleep.
5. Be thoughtful of the comfort of others.
6. Always remember that visitors are the guests of the members. Treat them with the same courtesy as you would if they should visit you in your own home.
7. Be a booster in whatever your Grange sponsors.
8. Never rush for the door after closing as though the Grange were on fire. Speak and be spoken to.
9. Never stay away from the Grange because the Grange is not perfect. How lonesome would you feel in a perfect Grange.
10. Ask yourself; What kind of a Grange would my Grange be if every Grangers were just like me.

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Mother's Day/Father's Day and Graduation Day in 2024



May and June have plenty of holidays. For this newsletter, I have chosen to write about Mother's Day, Father's Day and Graduation Day. Remember this column is for everyone, not just Lecturers of Granges.

In the past several years, Mother's Day has taken on a bit different emphasis than in the past. Our culture now recognizes what has existed for some time that "mother" comes in a lot of forms – biological mother, step-mother, adoptive mother, dad acting as a single parent, co-parents, and more. This is a holiday that may be difficult for those women who have not been able to become a mother because of medical issues, and also for those that may have chosen that "mothering" is not desired in their life. It may also be difficult for those who are not and have not been married. Keeping all of this in mind, Granges might wish to have a program to consider these different models, and how the Grange community may support each or some of these different models. Some Granges in Michigan have community service projects that are in this vein.

In the May, 2022 edition of "Oprah Daily", written by Rachel Mosely, a number of possible greetings to send on this day are below. They fit the variety of models mentioned above. Granges might consider having a greeting card project during Grange or a special meeting to make cards that could include some of these or their very own special greeting. They could be given to their personal "mothers", or sent to people that might really appreciate the thought and attention.

Here are a few of those messages:

- Happy Mother's Day to my personal superhero!
- You've been my teacher, my counselor, my guardian, and my confidante. My gratitude to you can't be expressed in a single day, but I'm still planning to shower you with love this Mother's Day!
- There aren't enough hugs and kisses in the world to show you how much you mean to me.
- I never knew you'd become a part of my family, but now I can't imagine it without you! Thinking of you this Mother's Day.
Happy Mother's Day! I'm so happy that you're a part of our beautiful blended family!
- Happy Mother's Day, Grandma! Another day that has me feeling beyond lucky to be a part of your family tree. We might be related through marriage, but we're bonded by love. Happy Mother's Day!
- Today is the day to honor the women who made me who I am—and unequivocally, that includes you! Thank you for showing me unconditional love over the years.

And, of course Father's Day occurs during this same timeframe. Many of the same tenets above apply. The greetings above are modifiable to fit this day as well.

For many, graduation day is one that is remembered for a lifetime. It is a celebration of achievement, which everyone needs to have many times throughout their lives. This happy day is often celebrated with parties honoring the graduate, and who doesn't love the food we enjoy at these parties!

Several tips to keep in mind for family and friends of the graduate:

- ◆ Let graduation be about the graduate. When greeting them at their party, greet them about their achievement, instead of how it was and what happened at your graduation and/or party.
- ◆ Don't confuse an announcement to be an invitation to the ceremony and/or party. Some ceremonies have limited space where tickets are required to attend. An included RSVP included is the key that you have received an invitation, not an announcement.
- ◆ Gifts and cards - According to etiquette "guidelines", a gift is not necessary as a response to an announcement, but a card should be sent. An invitation to a party/reception requires a gift, but need not be extravagant – cash, check, gift cards – are common.
- ◆ Graduation is a happy, friendly and celebratory event. Make sure you congratulate graduates and wish them much success in their future endeavors!

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HELLO SPRING!!!! Hopefully sunshine and warmer temperatures are coming soon. Summer is knocking on our door

April was Grange month and on April 20th we had a Day Of Learning workshop for all Grange members. Lots good information was shared.

One of the things I shared was for Granges to develop a Facebook page. It is a wonderful way to inform other Granges and your community of activities and projects your Grange is doing.

Please let me know if your Grange has a Facebook page. I enjoy reading what our Granges are doing.

Know your Community their needs and give them a helping hand. 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?

Partner with an organization to help with projects.

Teach a group to sew, knit or crochet.

Tutor people learning English as their second language

Put together first aid kits s for homeless shelters

Remember when putting your community service report together the focus of all Community Service Reports is on the Community Service your Grange has done this year.

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

This issue is looking at the awards your Grange can receive for Community Service.

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 10th,2024

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

This is a wonderful way to thank people in your community. I hope more Granges try to award this to deserving people in their community.

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.

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Wow is it Spring, or Summer!?!?? April sure has been up and down with the temperatures. Now we are possibly going to have a frost over the weekend of April 20th.

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! This year we will only have feeder pigs to put in the freezers. My niece made the hard decision to not show her last year at the Fair.

So last year at this time, I mentioned that we were going to double the size of the Coop. Well, it happened, and it was so nice to have so much room over the winter. Of course that means more area to clean too! LOL We still have our "garage" cats of all different ages and colors. They have started to have their litter and we have had at least 3 litters as of the writing of this article.

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 all for now. Please remember whenever possible to buy Local or Locally Grown / Made products! Local asparagus is being harvested in my

area of the State. It is hard to believe it is time for that already. I noticed while mowing the yard for the first time on the 13th of April that our rhubarb is at least 1 foot in height already.

Remember, when possible to buy local or direct from the farm as many farmers either have started their own on Farm store or they sell their goods to other local farmers that have a farm store.

Until later...

FOUNDATION**Donations**

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MSG FOUNDATION,
Jackie Bishop, Sec/Treas.
479 Tuscany Drive
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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!

Fund Raising cont'd from page 2

We will also be collecting "Pennies from Heaven" like we did a few years ago. Bring your loose change (or green paper money) to the State Session and turn it in. Or, if you do not plan to attend the Session, you may send a donation to the State Secretary and put a note with the check that is towards "Pennies from Heaven" collection.

Our big fundraising project for this year is the Home-made Blanket. Wow did we get the squares sent in. We didn't get as many as I had hoped from Grange Members but we did have a few come in from members. Most of the squares were sent to us from Russ's YouTube channel subscribers. We got squares from Australia, the UK and Canada as well as from all over the United States! He is in the process of sewing the over **Cont'd on page 8**

Fund Raising cont'd from page 7

100 squares together and the plan is to have them sewn together sometime in May. Once that is completed then we will have Connie apply for the raffle license through the State. Once we have the license, then tickets will be printed and available to help sell. We will be drawing the winners during the State Session in Charlevoix. The 1st prize will be the Blanket which will be very colorful and there will be at least a 2nd prize and maybe even a 3rd prize. So far we have a \$50 Shell Gas card that has been donated by myself, Kevin, and there was mention of another gift card that another member was thinking of donating as well. We will have all of the prizes listed by the time the license is applied for. Stay tuned for more on this major fundraising project.

If anyone would like to donate today towards the Pennies From Heaven collection, please give to Peggy and she will be happy to count and deposit in the Bank Account.

Thank you everyone. This "department" committee is all members of the Grange not just 2 or 3 people. We are trying to do different types of projects as not everyone likes to sell raffle tickets or sell anything for that matter. Please all support one of the projects. If you have a suggestion for another project we can look into, please let me know by contacting me directly via email or drop me a note in the mail.

GRANGE HAPPENINGS



GOOD GRANGERS ARE GENEROUS GIVERS

For the last several months, the Grangers of Cass/

MEMBERSHIP

Attaining New Members

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Welcome to spring! I hope many Grangers, and especially membership chairmen, attended the Day of Learning on April 20. I am writing this article early as Eric and I left on April 18 for 2 weeks in the former Yugoslavia. I am sorry I was unable to attend the event. April was a busy month for me.

Every Grange should be working hard to attain new members. Hopefully you took advantage of Grange Month in April to promote your Grange.

The Sister Grange Program will wrap this year. My intention for doing a second year was to encourage Granges to continue exchanging information that they may have started the previous year. My plan was to have Granges find this program meaningful and have a connection with their sister Grange. I do believe every Grange can benefit from meeting and talking with another Grange.

The Grange year for the membership department ends June 30. 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!

Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties have been doing monthly collections with items brought to the meeting of St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona #4.

Over the past year members have brought canned goods, paper products, laundry items, mittens and gloves, socks, personal care items and more.

Articles collected are given to the "Two Men on a Mission with Friends Organization" in Niles but serves southwestern Michigan and Northern Indiana.

The group has been active for about three years and they supply articles for local food banks, homeless shelters, the VA clinic in Mishawaka as well as other agencies who assist the less fortunate.

At the April Pomona Grange meeting, Norm Shefick, one of the Founders attended and spoke about their group and the services they provide. He also thanked the Grange for our generosity in assisting his group with their work.

Three of the five local Granges in our Pomona have been strong and active supporters of the effort. They are Colon #215, Burr Oak #1350 and Community #1675.