



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXX NO.4

USPS 345-580

JULY-AUGUST, 2024

Michigan State Grange Degree Day

August 4, 2024

01

8:00 - Coffee and Cookies
9:00 - Welcome
First Degree - Spring
Followed by an explanation from
High Priest of Demeter, Roger Bostwick

02

Second Degree - Summer
Explanation from High Priest
Hog Roast Potluck -
Bring a dish to pass, table service provided

03

Third Degree - Fall
Explanation from High Priest

04

Fourth Degree - Winter
Explanation from High Priest
Question and Answer Session



Burr Oak Grange # 1350
106 5th Street
Burr Oak, MI

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BE SURE TO BRING A WRAPPED WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT

Page 2
I Peter 3:9

"G" \$\$'s Needed

Page 3

August 4th
Degree Day

Page 4

Donations

Page 5

Thank You!!

Page 6 & 7

CS Suggestions

Times Flying

Page 8

Grange Happenings

www.michiganstategrange.org



Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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Editor & Adv. Manager:
Christopher D. Johnston

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Christopher D. Johnston, Editor
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

- July 4** **Independence Day**
- July 21** **Colon Grange #215
150th Anniversary
Celebration**
- August 4** **Degree Day at Burr
Oak Grange #1350**

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Chaplain

I Peter 3:9

Jeff Swainston P.O. Box 77, Manton, MI 49663
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Blessed to Be a Blessing

A grieving Canadian widower was dining alone in a restaurant for the first time since burying his wife of 43 years. Seated nearby was a young couple who reminded him of the love he and his wife had shared. He quietly gave the restaurant money to cover the couple's meal and wrote them a note on a napkin. He thanked them for the memories they evoked, related a bit of his own situation, and wished them well in their lives.

He could have enjoyed the memories alone. He could have stopped by their table and greeted them. But he went a step further, he took money from his pocket to bless a couple of strangers with a meal and encouragement for their lives.

Opportunities to be a blessing to others are fleeting and should be grasped. Wishing someone well is one thing, taking steps to ensure that they are blessed is another, especially when they have a need that we can meet. 1 Peter 3:9 says we have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

Commit yourself now to be a blessing to others today. When the fleeting opportunity appears, you will be ready.

FUNDRAISING

"G" Dollars Needed

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

Is your Grange working on collecting "G" (Grange) Dollars?
Many Granges are!

Let all your members know that you would like to have them
Collect these "G" Dollars.

Bring your collection to the Annual Convention in October.
The Grange with the most will receive a \$50.
Gift Certificate and a framed "G" Dollar.

We are waiting for the sewn together squares to be
received from the sewer and then the
Raffle license will be applied for and tickets will be available.

We will also be collecting pennies (and other change/dollars) at the annual Convention. This is the Pennies from Heaven collection. Save those pennies and bring them along.

Now!...Don't forget to bring your items for the
Silent Auction Event at the Annual Convention! Get creative!
Let's have fun with the bidding. As the Master Say:
Bid High — Bid Often

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

Degree Day

Welcome to Summer! The heat and humidity has arrived. While some of us enjoy the serenity and calmness of the frozen winter months, others enjoy this blistering intense heat that makes it hard to function. You can tell which one I am. Then there are those that are never excited about Winter or Summer. Yet the teachings of the first four degrees explain the functionality of each season of the year.

Still have questions?? August 4th at Burr Oak Grange Hall in the great town of Burr Oak, Michigan there will be the exemplification of the first four degrees, with a hog roast potluck lunch. Last I had heard, Roger Bostwick, High Priest of Demeter of the National Grange, will be in attendance with his wife Melanie. Between each of the four degrees Brother Roger will educate us on the meanings and the teachings of each degree.

Mix the education of the very essentials of our organization with good food and fellowship and this will truly be a great Grange event. Bring a carload of Grangers, a dish to pass, and a wrapped white elephant prize for some fun at the end. As we celebrated last year the 150th Anniversary of our existence in Michigan, let us take this time to learn where we came from. Fore, you cannot truly know where you are going if you don't know where you have been.

Resolutions

State Session is quickly approaching, in between our many events our respective Granges are holding we need to be thinking about resolutions. I hope that many of our members are planning to attend the convention in northern Michigan this October. It will be a great time to see the colors that northern Michigan has to offer, as well as time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Keep watch for more information.

National Session

The National Session this November will be held in Bettendorf Iowa. This is a joint effort between seven states: Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. As part of the host committee we have worked diligently to make sure there is something for everyone at this convention.

For those who wish to attend, there will be plenty of session time as well as tours and a lot of breakout workshops designed for the members who are not an officer or delegate. I encourage you to all attend if at all possible.

Every year at National we do some sort of community service project. This year the committee chose to collect donations for Wreaths across America. The first 200 wreaths purchased at convention will receive a special wreath pin designed and printed by Eugene Fletcher. Many thanks to Eugene for always being willing to design great items for us.



If you are not going to be able to attend the convention but would still like to support the community service project and sponsor a wreath or more (each wreath sponsorship is \$17.00), please make a check out to Michigan State Grange and send it to Connie Johnston at my address. Along with your donation, please let her know if you are sponsoring a wreath in honor of a current military member or one in memorial of a passed veteran and what branch they served or are serving in. There will be a display with all the names as well as a list that will be sent to Wreaths Across America with the donations receive.

MAKE YOUR PLANS

SAVE THE DATE
July 21-27, 2025 | Torrey, Utah

GRANGE
Revival

Thousand Lakes RV Park and surrounding properties

Peggy Johnston, Co Director
 404 S. Oak Street,
 Durand, MI 48429
 989.288.4546 or 517.285.6532
 jklbmc@yahoo.com

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

Well I do believe that summer has arrived. The next few days are suppose to be in the 90's. I personally am not looking forward to that. Today it's in the mid 70's and that is great!

Last Friday, June 7th was the graduation at Michigan School for the Deaf. Sorry to say we did not attend this year. I was in contact with the principal, Rex Vernon to get the name of the student that was given the honor of Valedictorian this year. I was told that there was not a Valedictorian or Salutatorian this year, so I asked him about a student that was going on to school to further their education and sadly none of the graduates this year have that as a plan. So the Scholarship was not given.

We have sent those donations and a check from the Michigan State Grange Deaf Fund for the camp fund.

I have asked the Principal at MSD to also give my contact information to the person who is in charge of the yearbooks so we might get an ad in there this next year. I will keep following up on this to make sure this actually does happen soon. It was something that Luanna Swainston had done several years ago and then for some reason it didn't happen and she had tried to make it happen again and there were to many communication gaps between us and the school. Since I live so close to the school, if necessary I will pay them a visit.

In my contacts with the principal I also told him if they have other projects that we might be able to assist with to please let us know.

If you have any ideas on what we might do, please notify either myself or Sharon.

Deaf Awareness Contests

Poster Contest: A poster depicting either Deaf Awareness Week (May 6-12, 2024) or Deaf Awareness Month (September, 2024)

Who may enter:

- ◆ Division I — Juniors ages 8 & under
- ◆ Division II — Juniors ages 9-11
- ◆ Division II — Juniors ages 12-14

This is open to all Junior Grange members, children and grandchildren of members.

- ◆ Poster to me made on poster board. (max. size 18x24 inches) Crayons, markers, pencils, pens, cut out pictures and/or photos can be used. The dates of the Deaf Awareness week or month needs to be on the poster.
- ◆ The name of the entrant is to be placed on the back of the poster along with (age as of Jan. 1st for Juniors) Junior or Subordinate Grange name and number and county.
- ◆ Deadline is before 9:00 a.m. on Friday of the State Convention.

Deaf Awareness Christmas Ornament Craft Contest:

Craft Topic: "I Love You" Sign



- ◆ Make a Christmas ornament, with hanger for Christmas Tree
- ◆ Can be made of any medium, wood, plastic, construction paper, (no glass)
- ◆ Any style as long as it has the "I Love You" sign on it somewhere.
- ◆ "I Love You" sign can be drawn, glued, engraved, painted, etc. on the ornament.
- ◆ Size: 1 inch to 4 inches.

Division I — Junior Grange members

Division II — Subordinate Members

Deadline is before 9:00 a.m. on Friday of the State Convention

Deaf Awareness Fund

If your Grange has already made your donation to the Deaf Awareness Fund this year, Sharon and I would like to thank you for that donation.

If your Grange or even yourself would like to make a donation to the Fund, please send it to the Michigan State Grange Deaf Fund, 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429.

Donations help with the Scholarship, Alexander Grange Bell Camp Fund, Ad in the MSD year book, and the party and sometimes gifts for boys and girls at Christmas at MSD.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

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



Summer is Here! Have Fun and Be Safe! Eat Ice Cream!

First, a thank you note. Thanks to everyone that sent my Dad, Roland Winter, cards for his 98th birthday. They came over several days, so that made it even more fun. Since his birthday, he took a fall, ended up in the hospital for four days and is now in rehab at Harold and Grace Upjohn Community, 2400 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001. His room is 64. He would enjoy cards again.

Banana Splits in Summer

I found an interesting article on ice cream in one of our local monthlies. It discussed who invented the Banana Split? My mouth is watering as I type this! Apparently, this is disputed by several locations. The Latrobe Pharmacy in Latrobe, Pennsylvania has historical documentation of David Strickler slicing a banana in two, adding scoops of vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice cream, three flavored toppings, and whipped cream in 1904. Boston, Massachusetts and Wilmington, Ohio also claim to have invented the banana split, with Wilmington holding an annual Banana Split Festival. Walgreens is credited with helping make banana splits popular across the country when they named banana splits to be their signature dessert. I think I might take a day trip to Wilmington during their festival – about a 4 ½ hour drive from my house.

Lecturer Contests

Several of the Lecturer's contests revolve around summer activities. All entries will be judged at the Michigan State Grange convention in October. All Lecturer 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 all 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. You might want to designate a day with kids/grandkids/great-grandkids to take a photo shoot tour.

Photography contest.

All photography classes may be taken in summer months. The classes are: Animals, People, Farm Crops Scene, Sky, and Monuments. Remember that judges tend to like unposed photos that show some kind of action where possible.

Home Made Food Contest.

Classes this year are yeast breads, fruit pie, and canned items. The recipe must be included for the item to be judged. Kids entries will be judged separately from over age 14 entries.

Family Recipe Contest.

Since summer is the usual season for family reunions, this might be a great time to get suggestions from other family members what they consider a "family" recipe. An entry in this contest includes the recipe and a description of why this recipe was chosen, who originated it if known, and/or why it is special or unusual to the family. Photo is optional. This contest will be judged on Thursday night when the Home Made Food Contest entries are judged.



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.

Fredonia Grange will again be participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Calhoun County. It is community based and raises money for cancer research. Relay For Life is held at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds on June 23rd 3:00pm through 3:00pm Saturday the 24th. To raise funds for this project Fredonia Grange will be selling Luminary bags, in honor a of or in memory of a loved one, to be placed along the walking route. If you wish to purchase a Luminary Bag please contact Andrea Peck, 517-568-3304.

Fredonia will also have a walking team

August bring the Calhoun Country Fair, August 11th through August 17. Fredonia will again have its food booth open and filled with many homemade goodies. Come and join us for some delicious eats.

The Wednesday Night Music Group and Fredonia Grange have formed The Mary La Fountain Music Scholarship. For more information contact Randy Nail, 269-317-1953

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.

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 31st marks the end of our Community Service year. **Your Community Service Report is due on September 10th, 2024. 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

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.

Continued on page 8

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 2024 have gone by way too fast! I hope everyone that planted a garden kept in mind the Agriculture Department classes for the 2024 State Session. I really hope to have a good turn out in my Department again this year as there were a wonderful number of entries at the 2023 Session.

We are a few short months now from our 2024 State Session that is being held in Charelvoix. It will be a great time celebrating yet again the 151st of the Michigan State Grange.

Fair season is here again. In just two short months the Berrien County Youth Fair while be coming to a close, as it starts on August 17th. This year will be bittersweet at the fair. My niece made the hard decision to not exhibit for her final year at the fair. It means less activities for our family at the fair but also a little more free time as well. 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 the youth exhibitors' time to shine for all of their hard work during the summer months (or winter too) leading up to entry day.

Well last year at this time we were having an addition put on to the chicken coop. It was so nice this past winter to have the extra space for all of the hens and the rooster to have. This spring we had to do away with the rooster. He was getting too aggressive towards the hens and I had to watch my every move when in the coop as he would come after me. I had a close call and I told my Dad that it was time. I didn't like culling him but we can't have something that could seriously injure the hens or humans. Now we just need to get more pullets to help raise egg production back to where we had been.

As I sit here on June 17th writing this, we are in a very hot start of a week of weather. Today it has been in the mid 90s with heat index of at least 104 degrees. We have had a couple of thunderstorms roll through which is great for the moisture but then the humidity and temperature goes right back up. At least we are getting the moisture to help with the crops and gardens to grow.

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.

Here is hoping your gardens are growing or will be and that your harvest is bountiful.

Until the next MGN....

FOUNDATION

Donations

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

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

“GRANGE TODAY”

This is the new communication from the National Grange Communications Department. If you do not receive this by email please contact Phil Vonada at pvonada@nationalgrange.org and sign up.

One of the issues each month will include stories of events/projects of Subordinate/Community Granges. Please send your articles/pictures to pvonada@nationalgrange.org.

This is a good chance to brag your Grange up and let others know what you are up to. Besides you just might get new ideas for your Grange from what other Granges are doing.

Community Service cont'd from page 6
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 10th, 2024.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!



MEMBERSHIP

Sister Grange ??

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. Now would be a good time to start discussing a membership plan for the upcoming year.

I hope every Grange has been able to connect with their sister Grange whether for the first time or a second time. I look forward to hearing all about these when the annual reports arrive this fall.

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.

I will have information about the upcoming membership program in the next quarterly bulletin. I decided it would be more beneficial for Granges to have this information earlier rather than later. Enjoy the beautiful days of summer! Tricia

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

Doris Buehrer receives 80 year award



On the evening of June 19th, several Michigan State Grange Officers, Chris Johnston, Master, Sharon Popler, Overseer, Dale Moore, EC Vice Chairman, Peggy Johnston, Secretary and Mary Beth Bower, Pomona met at Mosherville Grange Hall in Hillsdale County to make an 80 year membership award presentation to Doris Buehrer.

Doris's three children were present to witness the presentation. Pictured above are Chris Johnston, MSG Master and Doris Buehrer. In the picture to the right are: Chris Johnston, Doris, and her three children, Douglas Buehrer, Janice Johnston and Allan Buehrer. Well Done Good and Faithful Servant!



Quilt of Valor
 Barnard Grange #689 presented Earl Paige, U S AIR FORCE. received quilt of Valor. On June 6th meeting. Earl is 91 years-old. Claudia Libbey, Darlene Paige, Earl Paige and Randy Cebulski

