



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS

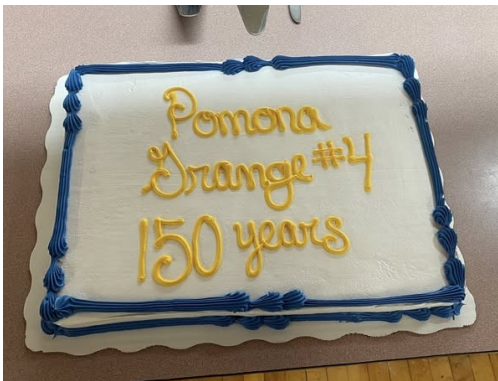


Volume XXXI NO.3

USPS 345-580

MAY-JUNE, 2025

## St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4 Celebrates 150 years



A hundred and fifty years of service to the communities that these three counties cover.

A lot of memories were shared of past programs, events, stories, activities, funny times, serious times and all those in between.

Memories are wonderful.



Displays of many items used during the last 150 years were set up including a tractor and equipment on display outside.



Bulletin boards were covered with certificates, and awards received over the years.



A Wonderful Celebration.



A video showing pictures and information on all of the Granges that have been a part of the St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona for the 150 years. Check it out:

[https://www.canva.com/.../zMJBkDk-96VOWEnx7o\\_x7g/view...](https://www.canva.com/.../zMJBkDk-96VOWEnx7o_x7g/view...)



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# Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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May 11	Mother's Day
May 26	Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 15	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth



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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429  
Tel: 989-288-4546  
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♥

**Blessings For My Mom**

May the light you've carried for others  
shine brightly on you.  
May every quiet prayer you whispered in the dark  
now return as answered peace in your soul.  
May your hands, worn from care and lifted in love,  
be held gently by those you've raised  
with grace.

♥

May your heart, so often put second,  
be first today—seen, celebrated, and poured into.  
For every time you stood strong when you wanted to fall,  
for every tear you hid behind a smile, and for every  
moment you chose love over rest—may heaven take  
notice, and may today bring you the honor you deserve.  
You are more than a mother—you are a lighthouse  
in the storm, a safe place to land, and a love  
that lives on in every life you've touched.  
May today fill your spirit with the joy you've given,  
and may your soul never forget how much you matter.  
**Happy Mother's Day.**  
I love you!

♥



GOD TOOK THE STRENGTH OF A MOUNTAIN,  
THE MAJESTY OF A TREE,  
THE WARMTH OF A SUMMER SUN,  
THE CALM OF A QUIET SEA,  
THE GENEROUS SOUL OF NATURE,  
THE COMFORTING ARM OF NIGHT,  
THE WISDOM OF THE AGES,  
THE POWER OF THE EAGLES FLIGHT,  
THE JOY OF A MORNING IN SPRING,  
THE FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED,  
THE PATIENCE OF ETERNITY,  
THE DEPTH OF A FAMILY NEED,  
THEN GOD COMBINED THESE QUALITIES,  
AND THEN THERE WAS NOTHING MORE TO ADD,  
HE KNEW HIS MASTERPIECE WAS COMPLETE,  
AND SO, HE CALLED IT—DAD.

Photokapi.com

## Remembering

**Thomas Grutsch**, son of the late Henry and Marian Grutsch, 70 years old of Peninsula/Barnard Granges was killed on December 3, 2024 in an automobile accident due to icy roads.

His sister, Claudia Grutsch Libbey tells that Tom served in the US Navy . He was survived by four children and five grandchildren. Two sisters, Claudia Libbey and Nancy Taylor. His parent and wife Sally preceded him in death.

Tom had been Scout Master in East Jordan where all three of his sons achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Our sincere condolences to the family.

## Spring has Sprung!!

As I drive the country roads, I see tractors tilling the fields and the planters are out planting the seed, sprayers are out fertilizing the wheat crop; I am reminded of the lesson of the First degree, Faith. Every year farmers gamble more than most do on the biggest sporting event of the year. The farmers plant a seed in dirt and pray for rain and heat to help germinate the seed and make it grow. So that hopefully they can harvest enough in the fall to cover their yearly cost of living and to jump start the next crop year. This is the ultimate leap of faith that can be witnessed each and every spring. The founders of this great organization took a similar leap of faith, when they started this journey that we know today as the Grange. The founders planted the seed and we are reaping the bountiful harvest of fellowship, friendship, unity, solidarity, and a sense of belonging. People join organizations to find a group of people that are mostly like minded, and for a sense of belonging. If they don't find that sense of belonging they will move on to the next opportunity. When we invite people to come join us, make sure we are giving them the opportunity to find their sense of belonging. Together, we can become the seed of the next season of growing the Grange, that the founders tilled the soil for...



## Michigan State Grange Annual Picnic

This is your notice to be looking for the upcoming information in the next issue of the Michigan Grange News about the annual picnic. Last year the picnic was held in conjunction with the degree day in St Joe County at Burr Oak Grange.

## The 7th Degree

After many years of discussion about recording the 7th degree as a stage production for historical purposes, it has been completed. In late March, Connie and I made a trip to Boone County Grange Building in Rockford, Illinois. The equipment from National Grange is being housed in the Grange hall there. The local high school has a full production theater stage that we rented for a weekend, and almost the entire cast of the seventh degree made the journey as well. We met for dinner Thursday evening at the Grange hall and then went upstairs to sort and help arrange what needed to go to the school. On Friday we moved everything, set up the stage, and did a walk through with the recording crew as they got their cameras set up. Saturday, we met at the school, got our costumes on and proceeded to perform, in costume, the Seventh Degree while being videoed. It was a surreal event for those who have been on the cast for some time to realize we may never wear those fabulous costumes again. Or ever see the hand painted backdrops displayed. As the National Session this November is being held on the cruise, this will be the premier of the recorded 7th Degree. Future plans for the video have been discussed but will need to come before the Assembly of Demeter to determine its future use.

Until next time....

***Please keep Sharon Popler (MSG Overseer) and her husband, Henry in your thoughts and prayers. They lost their home of 50+ years to fire on April 30th, losing most everything they owned.***

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### Spring has Sprung!!

Did you know that the National Grange adopted Deafness as its health project in 1970!! Fifty five years ago. Wow! Don't seem possible. (Although I graduated from high school in 1970 and am celebrating my 55th year this August at our reunion, *Peggy*. ) Gosh that's a lot of years!!

Many states have supported the program over the years by educating themselves and others about hearing loss. Projects which benefit deaf and hard of hearing persons have been accomplished by National, State, county local and Junior Granges. Many, many educational materials have been made available to Granges, schools, libraries, churches, etc. Several states still have projects going regarding deafness.



### CHILDREN'S HEARING LOSS

A child's development is unique, but some traits of hearing and language do follow a fairly consistent pattern. If a child does not develop speech at what is considered to be a normal rate it would be wise to ask for a hearing test. Early detection of hearing loss allows parents to explore all the options of medical treatment and education choices; to begin learning about hearing loss themselves and to start learning and teaching alternate communication methods.

By the time a child enters school, more than 80% of the language the child will use in the next ten years has been learned. Vocabulary will expand, but never at the same rate it has in the first five years of

life. An undetected hearing loss in these critical years will severely affect a child's education and entire life.

#### Most children will:

By 3 months:

- respond to parent's voice
- react to unexpected loud noise

By 6 months:

- respond to noises such as toys, telephones, etc.
- smile, squeal, laugh out loud

By 12 months:

- respond to own name
- say mamma, dada, & 1-2 other words
- shake head for yes and no.

By 15-18 months:

- start to answer questions and may use words and gestures to support the answer
- like books, and may repeat lines of text for the reader

By 2 years:

- understand one to two step commands
- vocabulary is expanding

By 3 years:

- experience rapid development of speech

By 4 years:

- express events according to a measure of time and can tell about a series of events.

By 5 years:

- have well-developed speech patterns

**Share this information with any new parents you might know. It just might prove to be useful.**

Naomi Fletcher, President 14685 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878  
Tel: (H)906-644-2319 (C)906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

**Ice.** We enjoy it in a cold drink, we keep foods cold in a cooler with it, we even use it on sore joints. But what we normally don't use it on is taking out 3 million acres of forest in northern Michigan. The Ice Storm of 2025 was devastating to over 500,000 people, some still without power even as I write this on Easter Saturday, three weeks after the storm. Cutting a swath from a parallel line from Grayling to the Mackinac Bridge, ice accumulated on everything and anything. We didn't get it as bad here in the Central UP, but we did lose branches on our farm. Nothing compared to our neighbors to the east and south. I'm sure there's a need for financial assistance for the area, including replacing food stores in homes. Dedicating a fund-raiser to the area would be greatly appreciated.

**Day of Learning:** The Day of Learning at Fredonia Grange was very informative for those who attended. We learned about each department's programs and had a great lunch. We even made mini barn quilts! And everyone went home with a door prize or two. I hope you'll put it on your calendar for next year. I'd also like to thank the Granges who donated quilts to the UP All-Female Honor Flight traveling to Washington DC in May.

**Mother's Day:** Mother's Day is coming up in May, so I thought I'd give you a little history about it. In the mid 1800's, Ann Jarvis started Mothers' Day Work Clubs to quell infant mortality by creating more sanitary conditions in homes. Ann had 13 children, 4 of whom survived to adulthood during trying times. "In the wake of the Civil War in 1868, Ann Reeves Jarvis coordinates a Mothers' Friendship Day in West Virginia to bring former foes on the battlefield back together again. The initially tense day goes well, with veterans from the North and South weeping and shaking hands for the first time in years. Two years later, Julia Ward Howe, a mother and another forerunner of modern-day Mother's Day celebrations, suggests a "Mothers' Peace Day." She makes the case that war is a preventable evil and mothers have a "sacred right" to protect the lives of their boys. In 1873 the inaugural celebration of Howe's "Mothers' Day" takes place in

June." Sadly, Ann Jarvis passes away in 1905 on the 2nd Sunday of May.

Daughter, Anna Jarvis, decided to honor her mother with an unofficial holiday in 1908. The day was marked by small events in Grafton, West Virginia, and celebrated in Philadelphia, where Anna Jarvis resided. At the church where her mother taught Sunday School, Jarvis sent 500 white carnations — her mother's favorite—to be worn by the sons and daughters in their mother's honor. The governor of West Virginia makes Mother's Day an official holiday on the second Sunday in May 1910. Anna Jarvis spread the word of Mother's Day by writing countless letters and to advocate for a worldwide recognition of Mothers. Congress made Mother's Day an official holiday in 1914. Canada followed in 1915. Unfortunately, Anna's campaign to keep the holiday humble and out of commercial hands failed miserably. She died a pauper in a sanatorium in 1948 at 84. She is buried next to her mother. She never had any children of her own." (*Text from UN-AVF Website*)

**Question of the Month: What is the unofficial drink of the Michigan State Grange?**

**Grangers vs. Patrons (Mifflin Grange #1725)**

If you are familiar with, or a member of our Order, you have undoubtedly heard the term "Granger" applied to our members. It is interesting to note, that the proper nomenclature is "Patrons," and that while we often use these terms interchangeably, there was a point where the former was used as a derogatory remark!

During the strained years of the struggle between farmers and monopolies, the term "Grangers," emerged as a term of ridicule as the opponents of our farming organization sought to belittle both our position and our organization.

To quote Rev. A. B. Gross, one of our founders, on the subject:

"As to deriving the name for our members from the place where they meet, instead of using the correct name of Patrons, it is just as improper as it would be to call Masons, Odd Fellows, and Good Templars, Lodgers; *continued on page 7*



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

April was Grange month and on April 19<sup>th</sup> we had a Day Of Learning workshop for all Grange members hosted at Fredonia Grange Hall. Lots of good information was shared.

### **New this year!!!**

#### **Reporting Community Service to National Grange:**

##### **A new way of reporting Community Services Projects will be followed in 2025.**

Communication from National Grange on the changes as to how we report our State's Community Service Projects to National Grange.

State Community Service Directors:

The 2025 National Grange Community Service Program is now posted on the National Grange website ([nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org)).

We have found that not all PCs/Laptops/smart phones show the same format but under Community Service, you will find a page with the CS logo describing the 2025 National Grange Community Service Program.

Also included are the National Grange Community Service Report Form and a "Share Your Project's Story" Form and Program Ideas.

In 2025, the focus of Community Service will not be a contest, but a celebration of good works. As such, there will be no judging on the National level. No notebooks are to be taken to National

Convention or sent electronically prior to Convention to the community service email address.

Likewise, "Of the Year" Nominations for Fireman, Teacher and Policeman will not be judged on the National level but can be recognized on the local and State levels.

We encourage each State to receive the Subordinate Grange reports/notebooks and "Of the Year" nominations in the format that best serves your State. The option to judge or don't judge is yours. As State Director, you have the responsibility to work with your State President and others as necessary to determine what is best for your State and get it communicated to your Subordinate Granges.

Any Subordinate Grange can submit a "Share Your Project's Story" Form.

We do trust, however, that you have been making a difference in your communities and now we can finally all move forward together with the 2025 National Grange Community Service Program.

At this time Michigan has not made any changes in the way we report our Community Service projects at the State Session.

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.

Know your Community and their needs and give them a helping hand. Our Community Services are a way to help each other and to help in our community.

The National Grange website has information on the Do's and Do Not's for your Community Service Report.

National Grange's Website also has information on Community Service. [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org).

Lets look at some 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 Grange member for the VIP (Very Important Patron) and The Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Awards.

#### **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. **Continued on page 8**

## AGRICULTURE

### Preparing to Plant

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

Wow is it Spring, or Summer!?!? April sure has been up and down with the temperatures. We have had tornados, ice storms, flooding, frost... what next!?

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 a feeder pig to put in the freezers. I also have a mess in the yard to clean up from the storm back on March 30<sup>th</sup>. I had a few trees come down and just finally have the extra time to start cutting them up.

It is that time of year for babies of all kind to be born. I have seen some of our outside momma cats getting a little thicker. We will definitely be having some litters within the next month I am sure.

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 food needed 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 tonight while out

## FOUNDATION

### Donations

Naomi Fletcher, President 14685 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878  
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**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: \_\_\_\_\_  In Memory

\_\_\_\_\_  Birthday

\_\_\_\_\_  Anniversary

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Thank you for your Support!

### *Grangers vs Patrons, continued from page 5*

Or Sons of Temperance, Divisioner's or Rechabites and Sons of Jonadab, Tenters. Propriety and justice demand that each organization have its own chosen name, whatever that may be: In this case the chosen chartered name is Patrons; in full, Patrons of Husbandry.

Despite the earnest efforts of Mr. Gross, as well as others, the use of the term "Granger" not only persists, but has stood the test of our Patrons and in many ways become quite our own. Time has healed the original slur so fully, that we no longer realize it was ever a point of contention. We are proud of our rich history in this, our Country and equally proud to hold the title of Patron...or Granger, whichever association and title links us in your minds with the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry.

**Agriculture continued:** picking up sticks in the back yard on the 22nd 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...

## FUNDRAISING

## Afghan Raffle

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

### Raffle Tickets:

Raffle tickets have been mailed to every Grange in Michigan. PLEASE sell them or buy them!! Don't forget you can always request more tickets from the State Grange Office.

The proceeds from this wonderful raffle goes to the Michigan State Grange to help cover costs throughout the year.

A lot of work went into these beautiful afghans from members and friends around the world. What a nice addition to your home.

So...sell...sell...sell... and sell some more!

Refer to the flyer on the back cover of this issue.

Other ways to donate to the cause is to save your "G" (Grange) dollars. Check your one dollar bills when you get change to see if they have a G on them in the circle...if so put them away and save them until you come to the convention and donate in your Grange's name.

We also are collecting pennies (Pennies from Heaven) along with nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.

It all adds up and helps.

## MEMBERSHIP

## Retain Your Members

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

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

A reminder the membership program for this year is to **retain the members you currently have** on the roster. We have all dropped members from our roster. Let's work a little harder to keep them.

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 Happy Mother's Day, Happy Father's Day and Memorial Day! Summer is just around the corner!

## CS continued from page 6

### 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### National Grange Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Award only given at the Local and State level this year.

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 heroes. 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.

### Your Community Service Report and Award nominations are due on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### Historic Moments for Old Glory

Each year on June 14, the U.S. commemorates the adoption of the nation's flag. Some defining moments in history...

**Fort McHenry**, After a daylong bombardment by British forces during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key saw "by the dawn's early light" that the "Flag was still there, flying over Baltimore Harbor's Fort McHenry. This inspired him to write about the moment that later became the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner."

**Iwo Jima**, The iconic World War II image of Marines raising a U.S. flag during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945 won a Pulitzer Prize for photography. The event has been commemorated in a bronze monument outside Washington, D.C. with an American flag that flies 24 hours a day.

**Moon Landing**, After the crew of Apollo 11 mission made the first moon landing in 1969 a flag was planted on the lunar surface.

**911**, on Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks reduced New York City's World Trade Center to rubble. A flag was hoisted above it by three firefighters.



# NATIONAL GRANGE

*Elevating rural interests since 1867*

1616 H St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006

## **The Time is Now for the Silent Majority to Speak Up**

*By Christine E. Hamp, President of the National Grange*

In every city council chamber, statehouse, and congressional hearing room, decisions are being made that shape the future of our families, communities, and country. Yet far too often, those decisions are influenced by the loudest voices – not necessarily the wisest or most representative ones.

For too long, the so-called “silent majority” – hardworking, civic-minded Americans – have taken a back seat in the advocacy process. We have trusted that “common sense” would prevail, that our leaders would act in our collective best interest, and that simply voting every couple of years would be enough.

It isn't.

Democracy demands more than silence. It requires active participation. It thrives when everyday people – including farmers, teachers, small business owners, healthcare workers, construction workers and skilled laborers, students, and retirees – make their voices heard. It's time for the silent majority to stop assuming someone else will speak for them and start showing up, standing up, and speaking out.

As President of the National Grange, I see firsthand how deeply our members care about their communities. We believe in strong values, in service to others, in tradition, and in progress. But I also see that many feel disconnected from the legislative process – disillusioned, frustrated, or simply overwhelmed. The truth is that advocacy isn't just for professionals or partisans. It's for all of us.

You don't need a lobbyist's credentials to walk into your legislator's office. You only need your voice. A personal letter, a well-placed phone call, a presence at a town hall meeting or community function – these are powerful tools that too few use. And in their absence, the vacuum is filled by those with more narrow, sometimes self-serving agendas.

We must remember that silence can be interpreted as acceptance. When small, independent pharmacies close due to unjust reimbursement systems, when broadband once again skips our back roads, when healthcare becomes harder to access and education less equitable – our silence can cost us dearly. But our engagement can turn the tide.

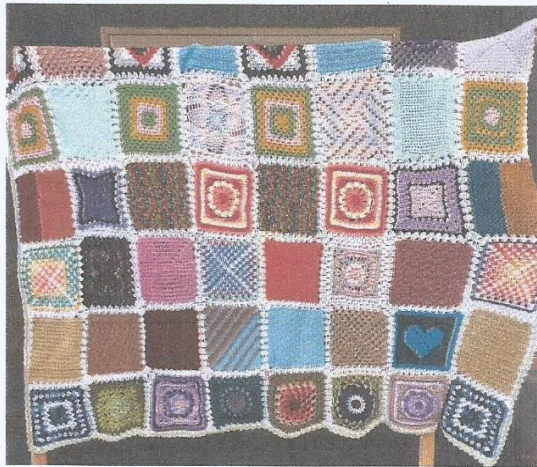
The Grange has always stood for active citizenship. We were founded on the idea that when neighbors and communities work together, we don't just react to change – we lead it. Today, that spirit is more essential than ever.

To the silent majority: you are not invisible. Your values, your experience, and your insight are needed in every conversation about the future of this nation. Let's turn silence into action – at the local, state, and national level. Democracy doesn't just belong to the loud. It belongs to the engaged.

Let's act today.



# MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE HANDMADE GRANNY SQUARE AFGHAN RAFFLE



1st Place - King



2nd Place - Queen



3rd Place  
Shell & Lowe's  
Gift Cards

**TICKETS \$1.00 EACH  
OR 6 FOR \$5.00**

Drawing on October 18, 2025 at 8:30 PM  
Comstock Inn and Conference Center  
Owosso, Michigan

Contact the Michigan State Grange for tickets  
[msgrange1873@yahoo.com](mailto:msgrange1873@yahoo.com)

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