



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXXI NO.4

USPS 345-580

JULY-AUGUST, 2025

Michigan State Grange Picnic

It's time for Grangers from across the state to gather to have a picnic.

North Adrian Grange #721 has extended an invitation to host this event. They will provide the paper products and drinks.

All else is potluck.

**Time: 11:00
Eating at 12:00 NOON**

Date: Aug. 23, 2025

**North Adrian Grange #721
Corner of Shepherd Road and Carson Highway,
Adrian, MI**

**For more information contact:
Tim & Barb Johnston
517-442-4555 or
Peggy Johnston
517-285-6532**



***Come and enjoy an afternoon of
FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP***

Soon the report forms for the various departments will be mailed. Please remember to follow what the form says in regards who to send them to. Some will go to the directors and some will be send to the Michigan State Grange Office. Due dates for the various report forms is September 10th.

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www.michiganstategrange.org



Michigan Grange News

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July 4 Independence Day

July & August Many County Fairs



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Tel: 989-288-4546
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In Memory of



BETTY LUEBKE

April 30, 1926—February 28, 2025

Past Michigan State Lecturer

1992-1994

Sister Betty, age 98 passed away at the Bay Bluffs Medical Facility on the shores of her beloved Little Traverse Bay.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lyman and Pearl Brown. Her husband John (Jack) Luebke, and her first husband Harold Vegter.

Betty is survived by her son Jack H. Vegter (wife Trudy) of Branson, MO; Daughter Barbara J. Patterson (husband Gary) of Grawn, MI. Five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister Barbara Kinsman, age 96 of Rutherford, NC and three nieces. She is also survived by the children of her second husband, John Luebke. Betty Johansen, Kay Lemasters, Jean McMichael (deceased) and Robert Luebke as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Betty had been a member of Harbor Springs Grange #730 in Emmet County.

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.com

State Session

As you all know the state session is right around the corner, well ok it is a few months away. Now is a great time to be working on those resolutions. Remember the resolution process is how we make the changes to necessitate change and growth in our organization and communities.

The interim By-Laws committee will be meeting in the near future to review the changes that may be necessary in the By-Laws to bring them current. I encourage each of you to take some time and review the current policies, see if there are any that need to be updated or changed or even removed and submit a resolution to be presented at the session.

You can find the information on location, meals and schedule on the Michigan State Grange website. Watch your mail for the credential forms coming out soon.

Michigan State Grange Picnic

Apparently July is National Picnic month. This would be a great time to gather with family, friends and the community for fun, food and fellowship. Consider having a picnic this month and opening it up to the public. Be sure to have membership applications available and ask, ask, ask.



Although it won't be during the National Picnic Month, the **Michigan State Grange Picnic** will be held on August 23rd. It will be at **North Adrian Grange hall** from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring a passing dish and plan to have a great time with your fellow Grange members!

Rural Life Initiative

Rural Life Initiative aims to foster grassroots community events, wellness resources, and educational sessions, aiming to enhance the quality of life and support local rural identity. National Grange is launching a new grant cycle to help in building resil-

ient communities across the country. Your Grange can apply for one of 32 grants available by going to the National Grange Website and looking up the Rural Life Initiative. **Applications are due July 31st.**

Distinguished Grange Award Program

Connie, as the new National Distinguished Grange Coordinator (she even received an official name tag this week from the National Master,) would like you to consider applying for the National Distinguished Grange Award.

The program year has ended (July 1 - June 30) and now you have two months to get your applications in which are **due September 1st**. There are only four questions that are requirements and then you need 100 points from a selection of 27 questions with various point values.

She would love to see more Michigan Granges receive this award. Your Pomona and Junior Granges also have the ability to participate in this award. There are even three ways to submit your application, via email, snail mail or using the online submission on the National Grange Website.



**DISTINGUISHED
GRANGE**

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Hello everyone! Summer is “maybe” finally getting here?

May was certainly up and down with the temperatures. Lots of rain, sunshine, cold, heat, you name it and we had it. As I write this article, the forecast is for some much warmer temps in the next week.

I don't have hearing aids (yet?) but I know a lot of people that do and that made me wonder if there was special care that should be taken with them in the humid hot weather. This is what I found...

To protect your hearing aids from summer heat, moisture, and sweat, store them in a cool, dry place when not in use and use a dehumidifier.

Apply sunscreen before putting in your hear aids, and if the do get wet, dry them off quickly with a clean cloth and consider using a dry aid kit.*

Store in a Cool, Dry Place:

High temperatures and humidity can damage hearing aids, so store them in a cool, dry place when not in use.

Use a Dehumidifier:

A dehumidifier helps remove moisture from the air, which can protect your hearing aids from damage.

Apply Sunscreen Before Putting in Aids:

Applying sunscreen before inserting hearing aids can help protect them from moisture and debris from the sunscreen itself.

Protect from Water:

While some hearing aids are water-resistant, it's best to avoid exposing them to water, especially during swimming. If they do get wet, dry them off quickly with a clean cloth and consider using a dry-aid kit.

Keep Aids Clean:

Summer activities can bring sweat, dust, and debris, so clean your hearing aids regularly. Watch for wax. With the summer moisture and humidity, some people produce more ear wax than usual. Be sure to keep your ear canals clean and as wax free as possible to help your hearing aids function at peak performance.

Use Moisture Protection Products:

Consider using sweat-resistant covers or sleeves specifically designed to shield hearing aids from moisture.

Avoid High Temperatures:

Don't leave your hearing aids in direct sunlight or in hot environments liked parked cars.

Monitor for Damage:

Pay attention to your hearing aids' performance and check for any signs of damage, such as reduced sound quality or unusual sounds.

***Dry Aid Kits:**

Dry-aid kits primarily consist of a jar containing desiccants, such as silica gel or other moisture-absorbing materials. These kits are designed to remove moisture from hearing aids or other electronic devices, helping to prevent damage cause by humidity. Some kits also include a container for the device and instructions.

Desiccant:

The core component of a dry-aid kit. This is typically a material like silica gel that readily absorbs moisture from the air.

Container:

A jar or box, often made of glass or plastic, to hold desiccants and allow the device to be placed inside.

Ingredients:

Often included with the kit, providing guidance on using the kit and reactivating the desiccants if necessary.

Optional: UV disinfection:

Some advanced kits also include a UV-C light to disinfect the hearing aids in addition to drying them.



A World of Sound

In silent spaces, once I used to dwell,
Lost in whispers, a world I couldn't tell.
Then came the aid, a gift to my ear,
A world of sound, now so very clear.

Birds in the garden, a vibrant, sweet choir,
Children's laughter, setting hearts afire.
The gentle rain, a soothing, soft beat,
A symphony of sounds, can't be beat.

No longer lost in the world's soft hum,
Hearing aid, a friend, my life to come.
With newfound clarity, I can now see,
A world of sound, designed for me.

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

As I write this looking out my front window, a storm has just passed through with more to come. We need the rain, but we certainly don't need the devastation that comes with too much as my neighbors in the lower peninsula have witnessed this last week. And just when you think the wildlife has found other means of sustenance, a bear (large or small with bandit eyes) has taken out my birdfeeders. Again!

This leads me to my story of perseverance. As the bear continues to seek out easy pickings, he is persevering in his own preservation. But my little story is all about a rock. My father was a rockhound. Definition: one who seeks out rocks to make pretty things with them, like jewelry, bookends, and, in my dad's case, miniature houses. My dad was witty and wrote small stories. This is the only story I have by him that I've been able to find. Maybe the rest went with him to the Grange above. Anyway, I digress. I was provided the honor to be the student speaker at my local community college during graduation ceremonies. And I carried a marble with me as part of the story. One of the instructors asked me what it was for, and I asked him to just listen.

You see, there were two piles of rocks, one all white pile on the beach. We'll call them sunstones. The other pile was red up on the shore. We'll call them garnets. One day a sunstone saw how much fun the red stones were having. People were admiring them, picking them up and letting the sun shine through them. The sunstone for some reason couldn't have light shine through like the pretty red garnets. People were actually taking them home. But why, asked the sunstone? I'm going to find out.

As fate would have it, one day a wave helped him move off the pile of his buddies about 2" closer to the shore. He saw an opportunity. And after many such waves, and a little help from the wind, and many years of persevering to reach his goal of the red stone pile, he was still only a few feet along on his journey. He waited for the next big wave and gusts of wind until he finally made it to the red stone pile. The red stone pile wasn't as big as it used to be because of all of those that went home with people. But what he saw to replace them were marbles. TONS of marbles. Different shapes and colors and

sizes. Hm. I wonder what that's all about.

One day, a man came along and saw this little sunstone amongst all the red garnets and marbles, and asked himself why this little white stone is here. I don't see any other white stones nearby. So this must make this one stone special. The man picked it up and put it in his pocket. To replace the stone, he removed a marble from his pocket and put it on the Sunstone's place. His trip to the shoreline to look for that special stone was complete. He never ventured further to discover the white pile of stones. He took that sunstone home and turned it into a beautiful piece of jewelry that he gave to his granddaughter. So, the perseverance of that little stone helped him achieve his goal of not only seeing what all the fuss was about with the red garnets, but also to become a beautiful present for someone.

So, my friends, carry marbles in your pocket. Pick up that special stone. Turn it into a special piece, or use it as a worry stone in your pocket. Skip it across a pond, or put it in your garden. But most of all, lose all your marbles. Then you'll truly be a Rockhound. Because you would have persevered to be the best person you can. But don't stop at the shoreline. Keep heading toward the beach. Making special decisions, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and the widows, and keeping yourself unspotted from the world.

Question of the month: What inspires you to persevere?



Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Tel: 269-209-6640 Email: roccomaryann@yahoo.com

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 Friday, June 20th 3:00 pm through 3:00 pm Saturday the 21st. To raise funds for this project Fredonia Grange will be selling Luminary bags, in honor 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 10th through August 16th. Fredonia will again have its food booth open and filled with many homemade goodies. Come and join us for some delicious eats.

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.

August 31st marks the end of our Community Service year. **Your Community Service Report is due on September 10th, 2025. 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

We will be judging our Community Service books the same as we always have; reporting to the National Grange is all that has changed.

The changes were discussed in last months Michigan Grange News.

This information can also be found on the National Grange website.

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. Note-

books 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 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.

Something to think about

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.

Each Grange may recognize and submit one nominee for each category, Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher 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/or State levels.

A Dedicated Worker and a Very Important Person Award. To be recognized at the State level

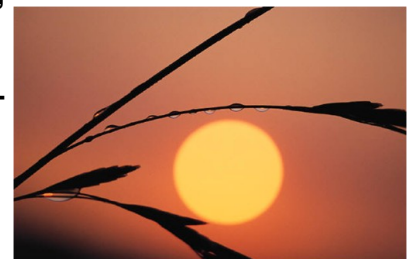
Nominations need to be turned in with your Community Service Report.

(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,
2025.**

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!



AGRICULTURE

Gardens Growing??

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 2025 have gone by way too fast! I hope everyone that planted a garden kept in mind the Agriculture Department classes for the 2025 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 2024 Session.

We are a few short months now from our 2025 State Session that is being held in Owosso. It will be a great time celebrating yet again the 152nd year 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 ends on August 16th. 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.

Last year at this time, I was talking about how we finally got the addition to our chicken coop done and needed to get more pullets to help fill it plus keep egg production going. Well we had done just that, and we fortunately were able to find pullets just getting ready to lay their first eggs. We also took on a rooster as well. He is a very handsome and tame (so far) Buff Orpington that keeps the hens in line but doesn't come after me!

As I sit here on June 18th writing this, we are about to head into a very hot stretch of weather. Today it was in the mid-80s and very humid before a storm front came through at 4pm. We had a good amount of rain from the storm front, and we needed it for sure. By this weekend we will see highs in the 90s with heat index in the triple digits!! 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 →

FOUNDATION

Donate

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

Your continued support of the Michigan Grange Foundation assures we can provide student loans. We'll be introducing the Scholarship Program at the Annual Session, so stay tuned! There will be NO MEETING in July. We have not received any Student Loan applications to consider. Enjoy your summer.

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!

Some Surprising Benefits of Blueberries

Small, yet bursting with big flavor, blueberries are a favorite of so many people. Here's a look at some of the health benefits of blueberries.

- Blueberries are a low-calorie food.
- Blueberries may improve exercise recovery rates.
- Blueberries help fight urinary tract infections.
- Blueberries may thwart cancer.
- Blueberries lower bad cholesterol.
- Blueberries improve immune functions.
- Blueberries may be an anti-aging treatment.



Enjoy this years harvest of blueberries.

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....

FUNDRAISING

Raffle Tickets—Buy!!

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

Just a quick update on our Fundraising efforts for this year. We are collecting the Grange Dollars again this year. Anyone can do this as you just have to watch for the Dollar Bills with a “G” on it. For those that want to donate and not watch for the Grange Dollars, we will take any loose coins, or paper currency that you would like to bring to the State Session that is being hosted at the Comstock Inn in Owosso this October.

Have you bought your raffle tickets yet? There is still plenty of time to purchase them if you haven’t done so. We will be drawing the 3 winning tickets during the Annual Banquet at the State Session. Tickets are only \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. We had one person during the month of June ask for \$100 worth of tickets!!! So we are on our way to having a great raffle. Remember this is going to be a very good profit making raffle as the prizes were all donated so the only cost thus far was the license fee and the printing of the tickets along with any postage used to mail out the tickets.

If you have any ideas for future fundraisers please let myself or Peggy Johnston know your thoughts. We would love to hear from you.

MEMBERSHIP

End of Grange Year

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

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 Wednesday, September 10.

Enjoy the beautiful days of summer!

Tricia

Road Trip Tips

Whether a weekend getaway or a leisurely vacation, a road trip paves the way for adventure. A little prep work will help your trip to smoothly so you can relax and enjoy the ride.

First, plan your route. Pick out major attractions to stop and see, but leave your schedule flexible to allow for scenic detours or traffic delays. In case GPS or phone service gets spotty. It’s a good idea to have a paper map or printed directions as a backup.

A clean vehicle will result in a safer and more comfortable ride.

For some, road trips are all about the snacks! Go ahead and bring your favorite candy and chips, but also pack trail mix, protein bars and fruit to balance out the junk food. Stay hydrated.

Since streaming may not always be available and also drain your phone battery, download some playlists, podcasts, and audio books ahead of time.

Experts advise stopping every two hours to stretch your legs and reduce drowsiness. Other safety tips include placing travel alerts on debit and credit cards; only driving during daylight hours; and regularly checking in with someone back home.

Have a safe, fun trip!!

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.

Taken from the Ohio State Grange Home Economics Committee Handbook — 1954...however...it still stands today.

2025 MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 2025

**COMSTOCK INN
300 E. MAIN STREET, OWOSSO, MI**

**Reservations :
Call 989-725-0999**

**Be sure to tell them you are with Michigan State Grange Region 2
Room rates are \$119.00 per night plus tax (\$146.44)**

**Meals:
Awards Dinner: Friday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.
Chicken Alfredo*, tossed salad, rolls \$27.00**

**Celebration Banquet, October 18, at 7:00 p.m.
Herb breaded Chicken, roasted garlic redskin potatoes, green beans,
tossed salad, rolls \$27.00**

***If you have a gluten allergy, please let us know. We are working with the hotel for an alternative.**

**The Michigan State Grange will be having a silent auction as well as the host region.
Bring your items to donate to the auction.**

Region 2 consists of Gratiot, Studley, Burns, Maple Leaf and Kinney Granges.

DON'T FORGET...

COLLECT YOUR "G" (GRANGE) DOLLARS AND BRING TO CONVENTION

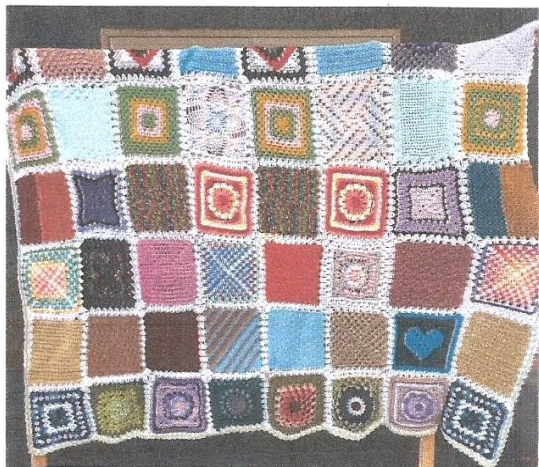
**BRING YOUR PENNIES AND OTHER COINS FOR THE PENNIES FROM HEAVEN
COLLECTION**

**BRING YOUR ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTIONS AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING
YOUR MONEY TO BID, BID HIGH, BID AGAIN AND BUY!!**

**IF YOU HAVE TICKETS FOR THE AFGHAN RAFFLE THAT WERE GIVEN TO YOU FOR
YOUR GRANGE OR SENT TO YOU GET THEM SOLD AND TURNED IN TO THE STATE
OFFICE OR BRING THEM TO THE CONVENTION.**

GET TO WORKING ON YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

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

License: R79494

989-288-4546