



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXXI NO.5

USPS 345-580

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2025

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE 152ND ANNUAL 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.

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www.michiganstategrange.org



Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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Michigan Grange News is published bi-monthly for the members of the Michigan State Grange.

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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

Editor & Adv. Manager:
Christopher D. Johnston

Postmaster send address changes:
Christopher D. Johnston, Editor
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

September 1	Labor Day
September 14th -21st	St. Joseph County Grange Fair
September 21st -27th	Hillsdale County Fair
October 13	Columbus Day
October 31	Halloween



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1/4 page / business card	\$50.00
\$40.00	

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6 issues per year, bi-monthly
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Season of Surrender

Seasons of Surrender

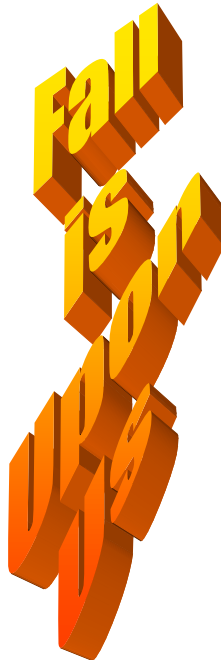
As summer fades and the crisp air of autumn sets in, creation reminds us of a powerful spiritual truth. Change is inevitable and surrender is necessary. The trees are the best teachers of this. In fall, they do not fight to keep their leaves, they let go. They trust the process and prepare for rest, knowing that shedding is not the end, but the beginning of something new.

Likewise, God invites us into seasons of surrender. We often cling tightly to control, comfort, routine, or even our own plans. But just as the trees release their leaves to make way for renewal, we are called to let go of anything that hinders our walk with Christ.

Galatians 1:10 asks us to examine our motives. "Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval?" This fall, that question is especially relevant. Are we clinging to the opinions of others or to outdated expectations? What would it look like to fully surrender those things to God?

Just as autumn prepares the earth for winter rest and spring growth, God may be preparing your heart for something new. But first comes the letting go.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
~ Ecclesiastes 3:1~



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
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404 S. Oak St., Durand, MI 48429
Peggy Johnston
Christopher Johnston
6341 Grand River Rd., Bancroft, MI 48419

Sept. 1, 2025

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
The publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Sept-Oct 2025 issue of this publication.
Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Peggy L. Johnston
Date
8-30-25

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

Welcome to fall

This fall we will convene in the City of Owosso at the Comstock Inn and Conference Center. We will be joining together in fellowship, decision making, celebrating, and setting forth the Legislative and Grange policy for the upcoming year. This year we will have recommendations from the Bylaws Interim Committee as well as a legislative policy review committee that needs to be acted upon. There will also be a recommendation from the Fifth Degree Committee about what that will look like at future conventions. There are also several study groups at the National Grange we need to discuss so that Connie and I have a clear image of the way to vote from our delegate body. And of course, celebrate our own achievements within our Granges and members with the state contests.

Non-Partisan

We are asked by the National Grange to remind our members of our longstanding and unwavering commitment to being non-partisan. It is in our Constitution, Declaration of Purposes and in the National Grange Digest of Laws, that we are not and must not become a partisan or a party organization. This includes but is not limited to the oral reports that are given at Subordinate Grange meetings on up to National Grange meetings, social media, and anything done in the name of the Grange. If you have any questions, please ask.

National Grange

The National Grange has revamped its website, if you haven't already, I encourage you to visit the website and check out all the changes and modernization that have taken place. Every site managed by the National Grange has been updated including the National Grange, The Grange Foundation and the grange.org websites.

Grange Revival

The Revival held this past July in Torrey, Utah consisted of about 80 participants. Connie and I unfortunately couldn't attend this year with the National Session Cruise taking up most of our vacation

time, but we saw many pictures posted by members that did attend, which the common theme of the pictures were rock formations. I'm not sure if any members from Michigan made it. They did release the location of the 2027 Grange Revival, and this one is closer and has more to offer as far as sightseeing. The 2027 Grange Revival will be Bryson City, North Carolina at Deep Creek Tubing and Campground July 19-24th. Campsite/Cabin reservations cannot be made until January 1, 2027, but the Revival registration is open.

GOOD DAY MAGAZINE

Are you interested in subscribing to the Good Day Magazine via US mail? Go to: issuu.com/grangegoodday to sign up for an electronic subscription or nationalgrange.org/goodday and subscribe or

Name _____

Grange name and number _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Phone _____

With this form, include a check made payable to National Grange for \$16 or simply include your phone number so we can call you to take a credit card payment by phone.

REMEMBER:

Report forms are due by September 10th!!

Credentials and Resolutions are due by October 1st.

Be sure to make your reservations at the Comstock Inn by October 1st to get the discounted Convention rates.

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

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3640 E. Bath Road
Morrice, MI 48857
989.627.3801
gma4hugs@hotmail.com

Sharon and I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention in October. We hope that every Grange is encouraging your members to enter the contests available to you in the departments.

We would really like to see many entries in the two contests we have for Deaf Awareness this year. We are looking forward to some really cute decorated T-shirts (Just make sure you have the I Love You sign on it)

Below are the rules for both of the contests in our department...

Deaf Awareness Poster Contest

Purpose: To increase Deaf Awareness:

Poster Theme: How Can You Be More Aware of Deafness

Who may enter:

Division I Junior Grange members ages 8 and under

Division II Junior Grange members ages 9-11

Division III Junior Grange members ages 12-14 (open to Junior Grange members, children and grandchildren of members)

1st place — \$5.00, 2nd place — \$3.00, 3rd place — \$1.00

Division IV Subordinate Grange members, friends and

relatives

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons. All entries will receive

participant ribbons.

Judging: The judging will be on creativity, Sending of message and neatness.

Rules:

- Poster to be made on poster board. (max. size 18 x 24 inches) Crayons, markers, pencils, pens, cut out pictures, and/or photos can be used.
- 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.

Entry Deadline: The poster is to be at the State Grange Convention by Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Bring it in or send it with delegates and take to where the Deaf Awareness Display is.

Deaf Awareness T-Shirt Contest

Craft Topic: Use of “I Love You” Sign

- Decorate a T-shirt, with the I Love You Sign.
- Can be made of any t-shirt (purchased or hand-made).
- Any style as long as it has the “I Love You” sign on it somewhere.
- “I Love You” sign can be embroidered, painted, drawn with pens, sewn on, etc.

Size: Division I Junior Grange members

1st place — \$5.00, 2nd place — \$3.00, 3rd place — \$1.00

Division II Subordinate Grange members

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons. All entries will receive participant ribbons.

All entries are to be at the State Grange Convention by Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. and taken to where the Deaf Awareness display is with Division, the entrants name, Grange name and number and county.



Introducing the New Deaf Awareness Micro Certificate

National Deaf Center (NDC) is launching a new learning opportunity; the Deaf Awareness Micro Certificate! This self-paced program is designed for everyone—disability service professionals in higher ed, postsecondary training professionals, ASL students, educators, and service providers. This certificate provides foundational knowledge to help professionals improve educational and training program experiences for deaf students.

The micro certificate is a series of online learning modules that cover topics like lived deaf experiences in education settings, the impact of attitudes and assumptions on deaf people, and existing barriers for deaf people within systems. The goal is to help those working with deaf individuals gain a deeper understanding of the deaf communities they work with and the challenges facing deaf students.

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

CONVENTION IS COMING!

CONVENTION IS COMING!

Oh, boy!! And I'm not even ready yet! JUST KIDDING! We have some fun lined up that doesn't require a lot of energy but does include prizes! So put your best duds on and come to Owosso for Michigan State Grange's awesome convention!

Oh, and don't forget to finish up your entries for all the contests on tap. Juniors, Youth, Agriculture, Deaf Awareness and Lecturer's contests were posted in the 2025 Handbook published earlier this year. I'm sure you've all seen it. But have you ever entered anything? I entered what I like to call my "Second Grade Art Project" and won a red ribbon! Don't think what you do isn't good enough. You never know until you enter!! If you have ideas for contests next year, let me know and we'll include them in the 2026 Handbook. I've dabbled in a few new crafts this last year that are fun, don't take a lot of time, and are nice enough to give as a gift or hang on the wall. Look forward to Diamond Dots and Puzzles for 2026.

One of the fun ideas my resident brainiac came up with is "Let's Make a Deal" at session. I don't know what kind of Deals I can offer, but there will be prizes! BUT, you'll need to pack a few extra things to participate. So, for those of you who have read this far and want to participate, these are the items you'll need. In a quart sized Zip Loc Baggie: 5 coins that equal 75 cents, paperclip, rubber band, mints/candy, a letter (this is a tricky one), old hotel room key/card, hand sanitizer, button, old brass key, small paint brush, crayon and one mystery (you get to choose-make sure it's original and out of the ordinary-you'll tell a story about it). So, when we have a short break break or two during session, don't be surprised if you hear Let's Make a Deal!

Did I mention Convention is Coming? Hope to see you all there!!!

Please fill out one of these contest entry forms for each entry in all departments. ↓

Please fill out one sheet for each member for each department that they have entries →

Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Grange name & Number _____

Juniors (age as of Jan. 1,) _____

County _____

Contest Name: _____

Division/Class _____

Attach entry form to each entry for any contest entered at the Michigan State Grange convention.

**Michigan State Grange Contest
Sign Up Sheet**

One form per member per Department: Feel free to make additional copies.

Use one sheet for each department: Deaf Awareness, Agriculture, Junior & Lecturer's entries

Name _____

Grange name & # _____

County _____

Contest Name Division Class A, B, C, Or 1, 2 3, Additional Info.

Release Form

My items can be released to:

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

As Summer is coming to an end and Fall is right around the corner, colored leaves, picking apples and pumpkins will be here before we know it.



Hopefully you have completed your Community Service Report or are working on completing it. If you are having trouble completing your Community Service Report booklet, you can still fill out the Community Service Summary Report Form and submit it as your Community Service Report without a booklet.

All nominations for the VIP Award along with your Community Service Report are due to me by September 10th. Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter/EMT and Teacher of the Year recipients are to be done at your Grange. You may mail your VIP nominees and your Community Service Report in the same package.

I hope we have some Granges that have submitted a Community Service activity to the National Grange. Please bring it along to the State Convention and to share.

I have tried to pass along information in previous Grange Newsletters as a guide and have mailed out your registration forms along with the guidelines for your report. Your Community Service letter and Nominations forms have also been posted on the Michigan Grange website. If you have any questions at all please give me a call or email me.

Remember your Community Service Report and

Award Nominations need to be to me in Battle Creek by

September 10th, 2025 to be judged.

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

With the start of the new Grange calendar year, lets try and find a new Community Service Projects to do in your community this year.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and I'll see you in Owosso at the Michigan State Grange convention.
 Mary Ann Rocco



Display of information on the Granges that have been in Lenawee County over the years.

This display was put together by members of North Adrian Grange in one of the display spaces at their Pomona Grange Building at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds. Very nice display.



Michigan State Grange Picnic at North Adrian Grange #721. Not a lot of us attended, but those that did had a great time. So much food, only showing what Grangers are good at. Lots of visiting and a few games with prizes of bingo.

Thank you North Adrian Grange!!

AGRICULTURE

Have you got entries?

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

Wow! August is just about over as I write this article, and another County Fair season is just about over for my area. The weather is up and down with temperatures and humidity, but it wouldn't be summer and fair season without that type of weather! The Berrien County Youth Fair just finished on Aug 16th and we had pretty hot and humid weather most of the week, besides 2 days that had some rain. But once it stopped raining, it was great, and the people flocked to the grounds. There are only a few more fairs left in Michigan now with one of them being the St. Joseph County Grange Fair in Centreville and I believe the last one in Michigan being the Hillsdale County Fair.

We got our garden in around Memorial Day weekend this year, planting zucchini, tomatoes, and butternut squash. I have seen a few squash amongst the vines so we might be able to enter in the Ag Department class. We got the butternut squash planted late this year. I have been watering our garden almost every day when there wasn't rain coming. I hope others have had better luck and will have lots of items to enter in this year's classes. If there is a class suggestion for the 2026 State Session that you would like to share with me, please do so. I am always up for making changes if it works with when our State Session is held.

As we move into the harvest season, please keep in mind that we will once again be sharing the roads with very large sized farm equipment. I know we are all in a hurry to get where we are going but we need to keep in mind that those big pieces of equipment help to put food on our families' tables.

I look forward to seeing everyone that will be coming to the Michigan State Grange Convention that is being held in late October up in Owosso. I hope everyone has been working on entries for the Departments so we have a great Grange Contest year!

See you at State Session!!

Halloween Fact:

Halloween originated in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a celebration marking the end of summer and harvest, and the beginning of the new year. The Celts wore costumes to ward off spirits

FOUNDATION

Exciting News

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

The Foundation didn't meet in July this year due to the fact we had no one applying for a student loan, and members were traveling hither and yon to represent your Granges at conventions and workshops. Our report this year at State Session will include some exciting news. I don't want to give it away here, but do want you to know we'll be able to help more students achieve their academic goals. You'll see my full report in the next issue of MGN.

I would like to thank those who have remembered loved ones who have passed on with generous donations to the Foundation. Your contributions help students in need, and are greatly appreciated by those who receive a student loan. We always include the Foundation contribution form in MGN for your convenience.

We look forward to seeing you all at State Session in Owosso in October, and wish you the best of the upcoming holiday season.

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!

and believed the line between the living and dead blurred on this night. The name "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve," the night before All Saints' Day. Today, Halloween is a major commercial holiday, with traditions like trick-or-treating, carved pumpkins (originally turnips), and candy sales totaling billions of dollars annually in the U.S.

FUNDRAISING

Sell or Buy Tickets!

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

Well, hello everyone. I hope you have all been saving those Grange Dollars!! I can't wait to see how many are turned in at State Session in Owosso. We collecting a very good amount at least year's State Session so I hope for a good amount again. We are also collecting "Pennies from Heaven", so bring your loose change as well. It doesn't have to be rolled and ready to take to the bank as I can take them to my local Credit Union where they have a coin counting machine! So, bring as much or as little as you can!

An update on the 10"x10" squares Blanket Raffle. The 1st prize blanket is a King Size Afghan. The 2nd prize blanket is a Queen Size Afghan. And there is a 3rd prize which is \$50 Shell gas card and a \$25 Lowe's card. We are drawing these prizes during the Annual Banquet at this year's State Session. Need not be present to win so please, please, please buy some tickets!? We have sold some but not as many as I had hoped. But, there is still plenty of time. Send in a check to Peggy at the State Grange Office and she would be happy to handle the purchase for you! Also, if you Grange received tickets and you haven't sold them, please do so. We have had a couple of Granges send in funds on the tickets that were sent to them and I thank you so much for that!

If you are coming to State Session in Owosso this October, we will have Silent Auction tables for the State Grange and also the Host Region is having one as well. Please come prepared to bid, bid high and bid high often!

I look forward to hearing from you if you have any suggestions for future fund raisers. We need to think of things we can reach outside of the Grange Membership circle to bring in other sources of funds. Stay tuned.... See you at State Session!!

Columbus Day Fact:

Columbus Day, celebrated on the second Monday in October, commemorates Christopher Columbus's first voyage to the Americas in 1492. While the holiday celebrates Italian-American heritage and Columbus's impact, it also sparks controversy due to the negative consequences of his arrival on Indigenous populations.

MEMBERSHIP

Reports Due

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

Another Grange year is almost over. Which means summer is almost over. Time for the annual reports to the Michigan State Grange! Hopefully you have completed your membership report. It needs to be at my house by Wednesday, September 10.

I look forward to receiving many reports this year. I hope Michigan will have an increase in membership.

The new membership year has already started; it runs July 1 to June 30. Now is the time to start planning a membership program for the upcoming year.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer! I hope to see many of you at state session in Owosso in October!

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 (TWO SILENT AUCTIONS, MSG AND HOST REGION) AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MONEY TO BID, BID HIGH, BID HIGH OFTEN!

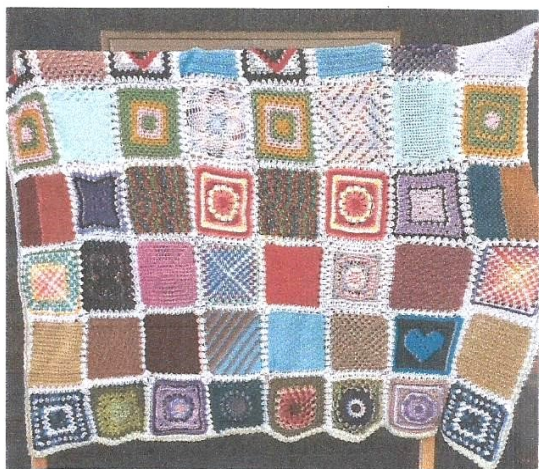
IF YOU HAVE TICKETS FOR THE AFGHAN RAFFLE THAT WERE GIVEN TO YOU FOR YOUR GRANGE OR SENT TO YOU GET THEM SOLD AND TURNED IN TO THE STATE OFFICE OR BRING THEM TO THE CONVENTION.

GET TO WORKING ON YOUR ENTRIES FOR
THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

Pictures, needlework, photography, paper items, fabric, art, industrial, collections, food, canning, traditional or unusual family recipe, coloring, recycled art, paper weaving, string art, windchimes, t-shirts and posters, vegetables and plants.

Time is running out...it's time to get your tickets for these super afghans and gift cards. Be sure to either send to MSG or bring to convention. All proceeds help the MSG.

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

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE ANNUAL CONVENTION

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Thursday, October 16

2:00 p.m. Display Room open for Entries

3:00 p.m. Registration

4:00 p.m. Committee Meetings

6:00 p.m. Baking Contest Judging

7:00 p.m. Welcome

Baking Contest Auction

Lecturer Program

State Officers/Department Directors

Introductions

State Officer Practice

Friday, October 17

8:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Open 152nd Annual Session in 6th Degree

9:15 a.m. Lower to 4th Degree—Admit 4th Degree Members

Flag Presentation

Roll Call of Officers

Roll Call of Delegates

Welcome by City Officials

Executive Committee Response

Partial Report— Credentials Committee

Adopt Order of Business

9:30 a.m. Lecturer, Junior, Deaf Awareness, Agriculture Contest Judging

10:00 a.m. Report of Executive Committee

Financial Reports

Proposed Budget

Masters Address

Session Committee Reports

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. Session Committee Reports

3:00 p.m. Budget Approval

Election

Speaker: TBA

Session Committee Reports

6:00 p.m. Awards Dinner

8:00 p.m. Call to Order

Memorial Service

Close in 4th Degree

6th Degree Practice

5th Degree Practice

Saturday, October 18

8:30 a.m. Open with 5th Degree

6th Degree

Feast Table

Roll Call of Officers

Session Committee Reports

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Call to Order

Roll Call of Officers

Adoption of Friday's Minutes

Unfinished Business

Installation of Officers

4:00 p.m. Closing of 152nd Annual Session

7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet

V.I.P. Announcement

8:30 p.m. Afghan Raffle Drawing
50/50 Raffle

