



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXXI NO.6

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NOVEMBER- DECEMBER, 2025



**Michigan State
Grange
6th
Degree
Team**

**Michigan State
Grange
2025-26
Officers**



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Michigan Grange News

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Inquiries contact: Michigan State Grange
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

November 4	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 27	Thanksgiving
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day



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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429
Tel: 989-288-4546
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Chaplain

From Gratitude to Grace

Jeff Swainston 827 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, 48827
Tel: 616-405-6921 revjeff82@gmail.com

From Gratitude to Grace

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and that means Christmas can't be far behind. As we move from the season of Thanksgiving into the joy of Christmas, we're reminded how gratitude and grace are deeply connected. Thanksgiving invites us to pause and count our blessings, to see God's hand in the harvest, in our homes, and in the hearts of those we love.

But as we lift our eyes toward Bethlehem, gratitude turns into awe. The same God who provides our daily bread now gives Himself, the Bread of Life, to a hungry world. Thanksgiving teaches us to say, "Thank You, Lord, for all You've given." Christmas invites us to say, "Thank You, Lord, for coming Yourself."

As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:15, *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"* That gift began in a manger, but it leads us to the cross and the empty tomb, to grace upon grace.

So, as we set our tables and later gather around our trees, may our gratitude deepen into worship. Let our Thanksgiving joy become Christmas praise.

Region II 5th Degree Team



Region II 5th Degree Team: L-R, Eugene Fletcher, Gatekeeper; Peggy Johnston, Sec-Treasurer; Sharon Popler, Lecturer; Fran Longsdorf, Chaplain; LaDonna Kurburski, Flora; Marcus Johnston, Exec. Comm & Specter; Connie Johnston, Pomona; Jeff Swainston, Assitant Steward; Naomi Fletcher, Master; Barbara Johnston, Ceres; Tricia Eidsmoe, Steward; Chris Johnston, Overseer; Dale Moore, Exec. Comm. Nancy Swainston, Lady Assistant Steward. Thanks to LaDonna and Barbara for helping us out.

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

I would like to give a big thanks to Region II for hosting a fantastic Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange. Much appreciation to Burns #160, Gratiot #1898, Studley #1174, Kinney #754, and Maple Leaf #940 Granges.

I would like to thank all the delegates and members for their continued commitment to attending and setting policy for the ensuing years. I appreciate your attention to reviewing the Legislative Policy on the floor and your help in making the updates. While we didn't get through it as much as I thought we would, we certainly made great progress in the start of it. I would like to thank Rich Hazen for taking on the task of selecting a committee to continue reviewing the policy to bring suggested updates to the next session.

Congratulations to all the winners in the Department contests. I didn't envy the judges on the hard task they had before them!

Connie (and I) would personally like to thank Rich Hazen, Oz, Jeff & Nancy Swainston, Randy Cebulski and Tim Johnston for unloading the trailer into the storage unit so that task wasn't left up to her, Marc and myself.

While I'm guessing everything is right in the world as there were so few resolutions, we did pass three of them with two of them going onto the National Session. Resolutions are where our Grange policy starts, at the local Granges, to the State Grange and then to National. This is truly a grassroots organization.

National Session

As I write, Connie and I are in the process of getting ready to attend the National Session. This is definitely a first for the National Grange and will be an interesting adventure to have the session during a cruise. During the four sea days, we will be in session all day reviewing the resolutions and the present policy that the committees have been working on

throughout the year over Zoom. While it's no surprise we are not thrilled about this new venture, I'm hoping the work of the National Grange will continue without interruption.

This will also be one of the times that the Seventh Degree is not held in regular form at session. Instead, the newly videotaped Seventh Degree will be shown in place of the full production. The past couple years, the Seventh Degree has been slightly modified to be done without the costumes and will probably be the future way of putting on the Seventh Degree.

Holidays

As the holiday season approaches, I hope everyone stays happy and healthy. From Connie, the boys and myself, we wish you Happy Holidays.



Michigan State Grange Master, Chris Johnston, Past Michigan State Grange Master Jeff Swainston, his wife Past First Lady and National Grange Ceres, Nancy Swainston.

DEAF AWARENESS

DA Winners

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



Look at these! I was given them at the convention from Naomi and Gene Fletcher. They found them at the Wal-marts during school days. How cool! Individual cards for 1-10 and A-Z.

This year the contests that were planned were decorated t-shirts with the "I Love You" sign on them or a poster with a theme of "How to become more aware of deafness"

Poster winners:

Juniors ages 7-8

1st place Olivia Sivyer Burns Grange #160
Best of Show Winner for Deaf Awareness

Dept.

Adults:

1st place: Peggy Johnston Burns Grange #160
2nd place: Dale Moore Burns Grange #160

Decorated T-shirts

Adults:

1st place Sharon Popler Burns Grange #160
2nd place Naomi Fletcher Burns Grange #160
3rd place Peggy Johnston Burns Grange #160

DEAF AWARENESS DONATIONS

Pittsfield Union #882 Barnard #689
Kinney #754 Burns #160
Mid Michigan Pomona #61 Barnard #689
Studley #1174 Gratiot #1898

ADOPT-A-CHILD GRANGES

Studley #1174 (2)
Burns #160 (4)
Mid Michigan Pomona #61 (1)
Gratiot #1898 (1)
Barnard #689 (1)
Plymouth/Westland #389 (1)
Community #1675 (1)
Colon #215 (1)
North Adrian #721 (1)
Home #129 (2)
St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona #4 (1)
Burr Oak #1350 (1)
Fern #803 (1)
Fredonia #1713 (2)

INDIVIDUALS

Sue Bennett Fredonia Grange #1713 (1)
Sotty & Arlene Douglas Burns #160 (1)
Naomi Fletcher Burns #160 (1)
Paulette Bird Non-Member (1)
Kevin Young, Russ Hoag,
Dale & Lena Young Community #1675 (1)
Maria Lopez Plymouth/Westland #389 (1)
Claudia Libbey Barnard #689 (1)
Barb Castle & Gary Ettinger Barnard #689 (1)
Fran Longsdorf Burns #160 (2)
Dale Moore, Sharon
Popler, Peggy Johnston Burns #160 (1)
Ted Mudd, Tricia Eidsmoe Studley #1174 (1)
Ladies of the Lake Non-members (5)

REPORTS FILED

Barnard #689 *** Char-An Pomona #38 ***
Community #1675 *** Burr Oak #1350
Harbor Springs #730 North Adrian #721
Mid Michigan Pomona #61 ***
Gratiot #1898 *** Burns #160 *** Le-
nawee County Pomona #15
Plymouth/Westland #389 *** Home #129
Studley #1174 *** Met Requirements

Sharon and Peggy
wish all of our
many Grange
friends a Happy
Thanksgiving and
a very Merry
Christmas



Lecturer

Winners! Winners!

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

I want to thank everyone that entered the Lecturer's contests this year. Please encourage your members to enter, even if they think it isn't good enough. I'm also looking for more Junior entries! Kids don't need to be, Granger, just sponsored by a Grange! Below you'll find the list of winners.

We'll be publishing recipes in the Lecturer's Column and quarterly bulletin that were entered. You were all winners! Naomi Fletcher



WINNERS! WINNERS! WINNERS! WINNERS!

Items created from yarn

- 1st Place: Karen Wolletz Barnard #689
2nd Place: Naomi Fletcher Burns #160
3rd Place: LaDonna Kurburski Harbor Springs #730

Items created from paper

- 1st Place: Naomi Fletcher Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston
3rd Place: Fran Longsdorf

Items created from fabric

- 1st Place: Karen Wolletz Barnard #689
2nd Place: Naomi Fletcher Burns #160
3rd Place: Fran Longsdorf Burns #160

Items created with thread

- 1st Place: Karen Wolletz Barnard #689
2nd Place: LaDonna Kurburski Harbor Springs #730

Items that are mixed media

- 1st Place: Evelyn Ward Burns #160
2nd Place: Sharon Popler Burns #160
3rd Place: Dale Moore Burns #160

Collections

- 1st Place: Peggy Johnston
2nd Place: LaDonna Kurburski Harbor Springs #730
3rd Place: Jackie Bishop Home #129

Miscellaneous Art

- 1st Place: Karen Wolletz Barnard #689
2nd Place: Barbara Johnston North Adrian #721

PHOTOGRAPHY

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL JUNIORS 8 & UNDER

- 1st Place: Winter Hsu-Bishop Home #129
SUBORDINATE

- 1st Place: Peggy Johnston Burns #160
2nd Place: Jackie Bishop Home #129
3rd Place: Naomi Fletcher Burns #160

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS JUNIORS 8 & UNDER

- 1st Place: Winter Hsu-Bishop Home #129
2nd Place: Willow Hsu-Bishop Home #129
SUBORDINATE

- 1st Place: Peggy Johnston Burns #160
2nd Place: Dale Moore Burns #160
3rd Place: Kathryn Hsu-Bishop Home #129

AGRICULTURE/FARMING

- 1st Place: Kathryn Hsu-Bishop Home #129
2nd Place: Tricia Eidsmoe Studley #1174
3rd Place: Jackie Bishop Home #129

BRIDGES

- 1st Place: Kathryn Hsu-Bishop Home #129 **
** Best of Show**

- 2nd Place: Tricia Eidsmoe Studley #1174
3rd Place: Peggy Johnston Burns #160

WATER

- 1st Place: Kathryn Hsu-Bishop Home #129
2nd Place: Naomi Fletcher Burns #160
3rd Place: Tricia Eidsmoe Studley #1174

HOME-MADE FOOD CONTEST

YEAST BREADS

- 1st Place: Barbara Johnston North Adrian #721
2nd Place: Dale Moore Burns #160

FRUIT PIE

- 1st Place: Peggy Johnston Burns #160
2nd Place: Lena Young Community #1675

CANNED ITEMS

- 1st Place: Peggy Johnston Burns #160
2nd Place: Lena Young Community #1675

TRADITIONAL/UNUSUAL FAMILY RECIPE

All winners! Will be posting in the mgn

BEST OF SHOW FOR LECTURER'S DEPT.

KAREN WOLLETZ BARNARD #689

Continued on page 6

Community Service**CS Winners**

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

The Michigan State Grange Session has come to a close once again. I would like to thank all our Grangers who helped to promote Community Service in their communities during this year.

Granges, let's all think about one new project/service we can do this next year for your community.

We have 21 Subordinate Granges and 10 Granges submitted Community Service Reports with a total of 27,185 service hours with 3 Granges not submitting any service hours. Congratulations Everyone!!!!

Thank you to all Granges for promoting Community Service and taking the time to complete a report and submitting it to me.

2025 Michigan State Grange Community Service Winners

40 members and over

1st Place: Burns Grange #160

2nd Place: Fredonia Grange #1713

3rd Place: Pittsfield Union Grange #882

Under 40 members

1st Place: Community Grange #1675

2nd Place: Studley Grange #1174

3rd Place: Barnard Grange #689

The National Grange requests our 1st through 4th place winners. Based on total number of points from the judging. Following are the Granges recognized as the top winners.

1st Place: Community Grange #1675

2nd Place: Burns Grange #160

3rd Place: Fredonia Grange #1713

4th Place: Studley Grange #1174

2025 Very Important Patron

Fran Longsdorf, Burns Grange #160

******Next years Community Service Reports will be due on Thursday, September 10th, 2026.**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE.

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

The Annual Foundation report and Financial report can be found on page 9.

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!

LECTURER'S WINNERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5:

CERTIFICATES FOR REPORTING:

POMONA GRANGES:

St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo #4 Mid Michigan #61
Lenawee #15

SUBORDINATE GRANGES:

Plymouth/Westland #389 Barnard #689 Colon #215
Burns #160 Gratiot #1898 Harbor Springs #730
Community #1675 Home #129 Studley #1174



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

Worthy Master, First Lady, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 152nd Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange!! It is hard to believe that it is time for yet another Michigan State Grange Session. Time sure goes by fast, where has 2025 gone!? I hope everyone has enjoyed my articles as at times I felt like I was just rambling on but at the time I was writing them it was what was on my mind. Agriculture in our Great State is a very important part of life and of the State Economy, and I feel honored to be the Director of the MSG Agriculture Department. It has been a very up and down year so far for Agriculture in our Country and it isn't over yet. As our elected officials that represent us in Washington DC still work on the new Farm Bill, we need to be mindful of the items that they may add or delete from it. We need to use our voice to let our State representatives know before it is too late that farmers are still struggling and we need to support the farmers more than ever as they continue to feed our Country and the World. We the Grange, need to stand stronger than ever to let everyone know that the Grange is still alive and here to help our friends in Agriculture.

I look forward to seeing what entries will be in the Ag Department classes this year. It has been another strange growing season in 2025. I hope to continue to bring you information on this Department that has Worthy Master, First Lady, Delegates, Brothers and Sisters:

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delete from it. We need to use our voice to let our State representatives know before it is too late that farmers are still struggling and we need to support the farmers more than ever as they continue to feed our Country and the World. We the Grange, need to stand stronger than ever to let everyone know that the Grange is still alive and here to help our friends in Agriculture.

I look forward to seeing what entries will be in the Ag Department classes this year. It has been another strange growing season in 2025. I hope to continue to bring you information on this Department that has meant so much to our Great Organization when it was first founded! I hope everyone enjoys the State Session and their stay in Owosso!!!

Fraternally, Kevin Young, AG Director

AGRICULTURE CONTEST WINNERS: **Winter Squash**

1st Place: Lena Young, Community #1675
2nd Place: Kevin Young, Community #1675
3rd Place: Dale Young, Community #1675

Flowers — "Potted Herbs"

1st Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160

Flowers in unique container

1st Place: Joanne Cebulski, Barnard #689
2nd Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160
3rd Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160

Flowers — Blooms

1st Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
Best of Show — Peggy Johnston, Burns #160

Decorated Pumpkins

1st Place: Fran Longsdorf, Burns #160
2nd Place: Arlene Douglas, Burns #160
3rd Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160

Decorated Flower Pots

1st Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nicholas Eidsmoe & Gwen Eidsmoe
Shane Mudd & Brennan Mudd
Studley Grange #1174
Marc & Cory Johnston
Neal Ambrose
Burns Grange #160

FUNDRAISING

FR Results

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

Welcome to the 152nd Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange!! This is a different annual report for me to be giving.

An ongoing project is the Grange Dollar collection contest between the Granges of Michigan. We will only tally the "G" dollars but if you want to contribute others, we will gladly take them too. I can't wait to see what you collected for this project. I know a few Granges are working hard to collect as many as they can. At last year's State Session we collected a good deal of G Dollars so I hope we can collect just as many this year!

For those that do not wish to collect the Grange Dollars, we brought back "Pennies from Heaven" collection this year. We will take any amount of coins (or paper money) once again this State Session. Please keep in mind, a little bit collected is more than what we had a year ago! I will be taking any of the collected coins to my local Credit Union as they have a coin machine that tallies up what you dump in and prints out a slip to take to the Teller for cash. Then I will deposit it in the State Grange bank account!

Lastly, Our new project this year was the Handmade Afghan Raffle! At the time of writing this report we haven't sold as many tickets as I had hoped. With the price being very reasonable and everything was donated for the making of the afghans and the gift cards were also donated, we will make a good profit on this raffle. We will be drawing the evening of the Annual Banquet.

Okay, that's enough for now but that covers all of the projects that have either happened or are ongoing currently. If you have any ideas for other projects, please let me know. We want to do things that we can draw from outside of the Grange as well. We know every Grange does some type of fundraising for their own needs, that's why we need to try to target outside funds too.

Fund Raising Results for 2024-25

"G" Dollars Collection \$1,726, Pennies from Heaven \$21.04, Silent Auction \$624.50
Afghan Raffle \$671.00 Winners were Russ Hoag and Kevin Kneupple. They in turn donated them to Jeff and Nancy Swainston and Chris and Connie Johnston. Gift cards to Claudia Libbey.

MEMBERSHIP

Awards

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

The membership program this year was simple – retain the members you currently have on your roster. These six Granges did just that by not dropping any members.

Adams #286	Barnard #689
Community #1675	Gratiot #1898
Plymouth Westland #389	Studley #1174

There are 21 subordinate Granges in the state and reports were received from eight of them.

Adams #286	Barnard #689
Burns #160	Community #1675
Gratiot #1898	Harbor Springs #730
Plymouth Westland #389	Studley #1174

The membership year ran from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Burns #160 and Plymouth Westland #389 each took in one new member. The following Granges all had a net increase in their membership as well as taking in new members.

Barnard #689 – 1 new member
Colon #215 – 4 new members
Maple Leaf #940 – 6 new members
Pittsfield Union #882 - 1 new member
White Pigeon #1345 – 2 new members

Thanks again to all Granges participating in the membership program! Keep up the good work and I hope to see more reports next year with lots of new members!



MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

NAOMI FLETCHER, BOARD PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters,

It is my privilege to provide the Michigan State Grange a report of the state of the Michigan Grange Foundation on behalf of the full board.

Members of the Board of the Foundation include Jackie Bishop-Secretary/Treasurer, Asgeir Sigurdsson “OZ” Vice President, Jeff Swainston-Director and Chris Johnston—Director. Each of these individuals have worked together in making major decisions on behalf of the Foundation. Thank you for your dedication to the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation’s work has focused over the years on providing charitable contributions to such organizations whose purpose aligns with the aims and purposes of the Foundation. The Foundation also provides student loans to individuals seeking higher education in university, college, or vocational arenas. In addition, the Foundation supports the work of the Grange as a whole through newsletter publishing and postage, and the work of the MSG Department Directors to carry out and develop programs relevant to today’s Grange.

I am pleased to announce at this session that the Foundation has worked diligently this last year to develop the Roland and Beulah Winter Memorial Scholarship. We’ll soon be able to inform the members of the amount of the scholarship and how many we will award. Applications will be due by June 1. Scholarships are open to any individual who wishes to continue their educational journey at an institution of higher learning, including trade and vocational schools. It is NOT limited to high school graduates. I want to emphasize ANYONE may apply. The funds utilized for this scholarship will be based on the interest earned on the American National Annuity and will be available with the 2026-27 school year, there will be 3 \$1,000. scholarships. The remaining interest will be held separately and build each year to include residual interest for future scholarships. The number and amount of scholarships may vary each year depending on the interest earned from the American National Annuity. I’m sure Roland and Beulah would be honored to be recognized with this scholarship.

The work of the Foundation relies on the generosity of members and friends of the Grange through donations, bequests, and repayment of student loans. Additionally, investments generate interest to assist in perpetuating the Foundation fund, allowing the Foundation to perpetuate its work. The financial Report is attached to this report for your review.

An additional item of note are the funds specifically dedicated to securing a monument commemorating Past State Master Jonathan Woodman. We are still working on making sure Brother Woodman is recognized in some way in Michigan.

As always, the Foundation thanks the Grange members and friends for their generosity over the years. Your donations assist in continuing the work of the Grange and the Foundation. As a 501 C3 organization, your contributions are tax deductible.

Fraternally, Naomi Fletcher, Board President

Foundation Financial Statement — 10-1-2024 through 9-30-25

ASSETS

SILAC Annuity (10-4-2024)	\$163,085.51
American National Annuity (8-1-2025)	71, 142.92
Checking Account	27, 734.43
Student Loans	5,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$266,962.86

ALLOCATED FUNDS

Endowment Fund	\$102,397.84
Student Loan Fund	30,000.00
MSG Dir. Prom & Dev. Fund	3,395.44
Michigan Disaster Fund	383.00
Jonathan Woodman Mem. Fund	2,043.00
Deaf Awareness Fund	277.50
TOTAL ALLOCATED FUNDS	\$138,496.78

NON ALLOCATED FUNDS

0.00

INCOME

Student Loan income	0.00
Memorial Income	640.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$640.00

EXPENSES

MSG Newsletter Postage	165.21
Corporation Filing	40.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$205.21





← **Group Photo**

Feast Table



**MSG
2025
VIP**

**Fran
Longsdorf**



**Lisa Bennett—American In-
come Life Speaker** →



**Chris Johnston, Master and
Shiawassee County Sheriff Doug
Chapman and Kim Huska, Com-
stock Inn Banquet Manager, wel-
coming us to the area.** ↑



← **Michigan
State Grange
Master, Chris
Johnston**