



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XIX NO. 3

USPS 345-580

May-June, 2013

TWO (2) FAMILY ACTIVITIES WORKSHOPS

Mark your Calendars!!! Plan to Attend!!!

Family Activities Workshops

“SPRING FLING”

**May 11, 2013 — Capitol Grange #540 (Grange Acres) Haslett, MI
9:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**

Registration — Refreshments and Beverages

**Workshops: Knitting 101, Photography, Basic Quilting, & Family History
Potluck at Noon — Sloppy Joes and tableware provided**

Speaker

**Community Service Project — Bring non-perishable items for Loaves and
Fishes Food Pantry**

“NORTHERN EXPERIENCE”

**May 18, 2013 — Barnard Grange #689 Charlevoix, MI
9:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**

Registration — Refreshments and Beverages

**Workshops: Jar Lid Craft, Lap Throw Marathon, Chair Canning Demo,
Tactile Project, & Card Making**

Potluck at Noon — Sloppy Joes and tableware provided

Speaker: Topic, Fly Fishing

**Community Service Project — Bring non-perishable items for a local food
pantry**

RSVP if possible

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<i>Raffle Winners</i>	<i>Better Hearing Month</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Junior Camp & Crafts</i>	<i>Recruiting Members</i>	<i>Youth—Kelley Farm—Degrees</i>



Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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May 1 May Day

May 11 Spring Fling Family Activities Workshop Capitol Grange, Haslett

May 18 Northern Experience Family Activities Workshop Barnard Grange, Charlevoix

June 2-4 NG Legislative Fly-In, Washington, D.C.

June 28-30 JG/Youth Camp, Barnard Grange, Charlevoix

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Chaplain

Spring

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Tel: 989-875-2894 E-mail: katjoy98@yahoo.com



Happy Spring, or at least I think it is spring. There has been no snow in the last couple of days and the weather has been sunny and warm.

Now my flowers are finally coming up and hopefully soon I will have many different colors in my yard telling me that it is Spring.

Someone sent me this poem and I wanted to share it with you.

Spring is life
Spring is hope
So is love and happiness.
Spring renews.

Without spring,
Life is forlorn.
Spring is nostalgia after bitter storm.
Put spring in your heart

I got this after we had a snow storm for the thousandth time. Or at least it felt like spring was never going to come.

I had to remember that Spring is life and hope and happiness. It is a time of renewal for us all. Like the poem states life is forlorn without a spring. So let us be joyful about having spring finally showing up and gracing us with her warmth, sun and even a little rain. Let us watch the world be born again and fill the world with beautiful colors of life.

In Memory Of

Esther Pfister
Past Michigan State Grange Pianist



Esther L. Pfister, 96, of Adrian, passed away Tuesday, March 12, 2013, under the loving care of her family and Hospice of Lenawee.

Born May 3, 1916, in Adrian, Michigan, she was the daughter of Royal and Mary (Smith) Kidman.

Her family was active in their church, West Adrian United Church of Christ, where she met Medford Pfister, also of Adrian. They were married on March 16, 1935. He preceded her in death in 1984.

Esther and Medford raised their children and operated a dairy farm in Adrian. Encouraged by her father, Esther

was a self-taught pianist and organist. She was the organist at her church for many decades and enjoyed accompanying her children and grandchildren for recitals and solos. She was the pianist for the Michigan State Grange for several years, always prepared to play just what was needed. She was a member of the Rome Grange. A talented seamstress and an accomplished quilter, Esther won 1st place at the National Grange quilting competition in 1994.

She is survived by one son, Russell (Michele Slowey) Pfister of Portsmouth, VA; one daughter, Mary (David) Heimerdinger of Clinton; one daughter-in-law, Jean Pfister of Adrian; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Esther were held on Friday, March 15, 2013, at Wagley Funeral Home, with Rev. John Kottke officiating. Burial followed at Lenawee Hills Memorial Park in Adrian.
“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

Fundraising

During the month of March we had the drawing for the raffle we have had going since the convention in October. The winner of the half a cow was **Marie Dean from Summit City Grange #672 and the winner of the whole hog was Steve Kaufman from Studley Grange #1174.** Congratulations to the both of you and I hope you enjoy the meat.

The Executive Committee and I have decided on the **summer fundraiser** to be starting real soon. The **first prize will be a \$500.00 shopping spree at the location of the winner's choice and the second prize will be a**



\$250.00 shopping spree of the winner's choice. The cost of the tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing for this raffle will be in September. If you are interested in selling tickets or buying tickets please let either Peggy Johnston or I know and we will see that you get the tickets.

Please remember that it is through the fundraisers that we are able to continue to do the things we do and to help strengthen the financial stability of the Michigan State Grange.

Conferences

I would like to **THANK** everybody that made it to the **spring department directors' conference** and to Gratiot Grange for hosting. I would also like to encourage everybody and not just members to attend the **Family Activities Conferences** that are coming up soon. Information on those conferences is located in the Family Activities article of this issue.

John Baldwin, Executive Committee Member



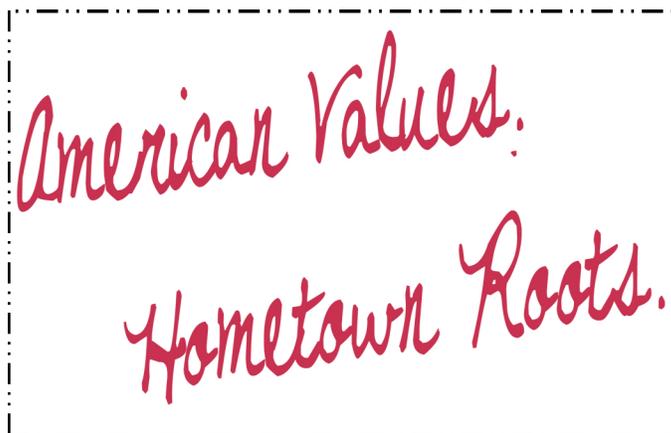
For those of you who knew **John Baldwin** who was elected to the Executive Committee in 2011, may have heard that John passed on to the Great Grange above April 18th. John was a lifelong member of

Oceana Center Grange, having held several positions at the Subordinate and Pomona Grange, John will be greatly missed. "Well done Good and Faithful Servant". I would like to thank the officers of Oceana Center Grange, Kent Ottawa Oceana Pomona and the Michigan State Grange that were present at the funeral and showed their respects.

Kelley Farm Degrees

The **original first four degrees** are being presented by the Youth Department of the National Grange. The officers of the Degrees are made up of Youth and Young Adults from all across the country. There will be four officers in the second degree from Michigan they are, **Alex Swainston, Jessica Swainston, Destiny Bowers and myself.** The Degrees will take place at the **Kelley Farm in Elk River, Minnesota on July 13th** starting at 10 a.m. I would love to see a good showing of Michiganders out there supporting our Youth. Not to mention who knows when you will have the chance to witness the first four degrees the way they were originally written by the founders in 1873. This event will also coincide with the annual Midwest regional Youth camp.

Until next time.....



Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
 Tel: 616-877-0169 E-mail: plswainston@hotmail.com

MAY IS BETTER HEARING MONTH

By now all your Granges should have received the **Deaf Awareness Fund** plea letters. *Please consider contributing to this Fund.*

From this **FUND** we will be presenting a graduating senior a \$500.00 scholarship at the Michigan School for the Deaf. Graduation is Thursday, June 6 at 1:00 p.m.

We also hope to collect **FUNDS** to help support the Alexander Graham Bell 26th Annual Summer Camp Program. We assisted them last summer and hope to be able to do the same this summer. They are hoping to expand their program this year to include more campers. They are always in need of fresh supplies for the speech and language activities as well as ‘care kits’ (items for the daily care of camper’s hearing aid/cochlea implants) for the campers. The dates of the camps are Sunday, July 14 — Friday, July 26 (the two week program) and Sunday, July 14—Friday, July 19 (the one week program). The YMCA Storer Camps operates this camp located on a 1200 acres of wooden meadows along Stony Lake in the Irish Hills near Jackson, MI The Michigan A.G. Bells Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides professionals in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on staff to support this fully mainstreamed camp program. Oral Deaf and Hard of hearing campers between the ages of 8-18 who attend this camp are fully mainstreamed in cabins with same age peers. Staffing and program activities make it necessary to accept only those campers whose method of communications is oral. There is amplifications support and a 1 hour daily language enrichment program for children with hearing loss. Some of the camp activities provided through the YMCA Storer Camp are rock climbing and rappel wall, high and low ropes courses, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing tower, general horseback riding, English and western riding, individual and team sports, archery, revelry, general water sports, recreational swimming, canoeing, fishing, water sports, rowing, kayaking, snorkeling, sailing, arts and crafts, rail rides, horse lessons, orienteering, outdoor living skills, campouts, team building skills, survival skills and many, many more.

With your **help** we will be able to provide these programs. **Individual contributions** are also accepted and appreciated.

Being Better Hearing Month, I hope each Grange presents a Deaf Awareness Program. Let me know about your programs, please. **Thanks in advance.**

April showers did bring May flowers but as of now we don’t need any more rain for awhile. There are many happenings in the next couple of months. Graduations are prevalent in our area as I image they are in yours. We have two granddaughters graduating and I wish them the best and others in whatever they pursuit.

Remember Mothers on **Mother’s Day, May 12.** Give her an extra hug. If your mom is not with you, remember the days when you had her with you and the many good times with her.

Memorial Day is a day to remember those who died trying to keep our country’s freedom and support those now in the Military services.

Flag Day is in June and it is a day that we all should proudly fly our flags, and not only on the 14th but every day possible.

Father’s Day is June 16. Remember dads on the their day!

The **First Day of Summer** is June 21. Maybe we will have some warm weather by then and can enjoy the summer.

Again, have a great Better Hearing Month!



Alex Swainston,
Kinney Grange
#754

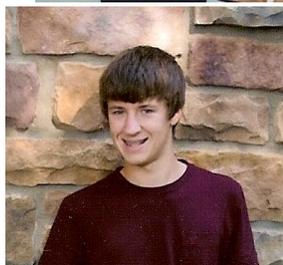


Picture taken at 1995 MSG Convention: L-R: Tricia Eidsmoe & Christopher Studley #1174; Michelle Abbott & Shannon Kinney #754; Anne Kurburski & Johnny. **Now all these babies and others are graduating from high school.**



Destiny Bowers
Burns Grange #160

→
Christopher
Eidsmoe
Studley Grange
#1174



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←
John Kurburski
Harbor Springs
#730

Hi Everyone! Hard to believe this is already the May/June issue of the **MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS**.

Seems like it was state session time just a short time ago. How time flies!

May has much to offer. Senior proms, Mother's Day, Workshops, Memorial Day, and did I mention Workshops. June is another busy month with graduations, open houses, Father's Day, first day of summer, and Junior/Youth camp.

I hope many of you will be able to attend at least one of the **FAMILY ACTIVITIES WORKSHOPS** being held. Would also be great to have a wonderful turnout for the **JUNIOR/YOUTH CAMP**.

Participation is down in attending some of the events that have been taking place lately. There were six Michigan Grangers that attended the **GLGLC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** in Minnesota recently. You missed a great conference and work day at the Kelley Farm.

The number of officers/directors came close to matching the number of Grangers attending the recent **OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WORKSHOP**, held in North Star. There were 16 Grange officers/directors and 8 other Grange members in attendance, including two that were juniors. Eight Subordinate Granges had members attend, the officers/directors represented six of those Granges. One Junior Grange was represented. Again you missed a fun, informative day.

These events are for all Grange members, it's a way to learn what is going on at the state level, and learning how to be better leaders in our own Granges.

It is often frustrating to work so hard planning and putting on a conference, workshop, camp, etc. and have such poor response in attendance. We are all members of the **MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE**, and without it we wouldn't have our subordinate Granges. It takes all of us to work together to strengthen our Grange.

You will find some information about the current national quilt block contest, use this information to help you make a winning block entry.

Also I'd like to thank everyone that sent a log cabin quilt block for the upcoming quilt raffle. A very big **Thank-you** to Darleen Dhaseleer for all her hard work in making quilt blocks and in putting them all together.

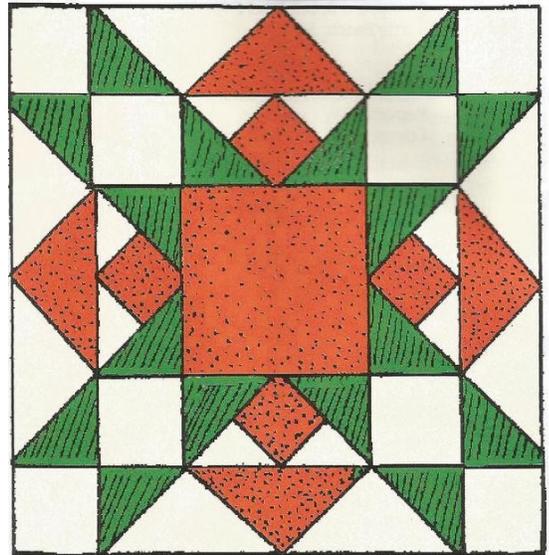
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

"A Mother is a person who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take."



CHRISTMAS STAR

2013 NATIONAL GRANGE QUILT BLOCK



The Square is to measure **12 inches when finished**. A 12 inch square with a **1/4 inch allowance around for piecing**. It is to be made of **red, green and white fabrics**.

National Grange Quilt Block Contest Judging Score Sheet

- VISUAL IMPACT — 10 POINTS**
 - Lays straight & flat
 - Is clean: no markings, threads, stains, pet hairs, etc.
 - Piece is effective—WOW factor
- SIZE—unfinished is 10 1/2" x 10 1/2" — 20 POINTS**
 - Size is consistent overall
 - (If smaller than 10 1/4" or larger than 10 3/4" block will be disqualified from judging)
- DESIGN — 20 POINTS**
 - Uses of pattern and design
 - Has unity, rhythm, & balance;
 - proportional to block size
 - Originality
- COLOR — 10 POINTS**
 - Effects of Color in Overall Design
 - Compatible colors, values & contrasts
 - Balance & movement of colors
- SUITABILITY OF FABRICS — 20 POINTS**
 - Fabrics are 100% cotton
 - Scale of fabric designs appropriate to block size
 - Thread color match or blend with fabrics
 - Block is amenable to quilting
- PRECISION OF WORKMANSHIP — 20 POINTS**
 - Precise points, corners, curves, angles
 - Precise intersections
 - Balanced tension
 - Stitches even, straight, secure
 - If appliquéd, is securely adhered (both bonded and stitched)

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
 Tel: 989-631-0079 E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net
 Helen Mudd 1757 Stewart Road, Midland, MI 48640
 Tel: 989-631-3708

I hope everyone has had a nice spring, despite all the rain. We should have beautiful flowers this month!

If you did not make it to the Directors Conference on April 20, you missed a very informative day. I am using part of my presentation as my Grange News article.

Simplify the Notebook!

Select the photos that best represent the project
 If 30 pictures are taken of a project, does not mean all 30 need to be used!

Organize the Notebook

You want your notebook to read like a book
 Keep projects grouped together
 Keep supporting evidence, such as thank you letters and newspaper articles, with the photo and text of the project

Examples of Organizing

- Organize the book in 2 separate sections:
 New Projects & Continuing Projects
- Organize each section in chronological order from beginning of grange year to the end
- OR – Organize each section in order from largest project in terms of hours involved to smallest project
- Keep the pages clean & concise
- List all projects at the beginning of the book
- Try to keep 2 pages of a project as a 2 page spread, so the judge can see they go together
- May have to go to 3 or 4 pages, depending on the project
- Do not use tabs with paper inserts – they fall out!
- If a donation was made to a project, make sure it is listed somewhere

Reminder that the Community Service program period is September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013.

Mom & I will be working on the best way we want you to report hours involved in the projects. Look for more information in the July/August Grange News. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

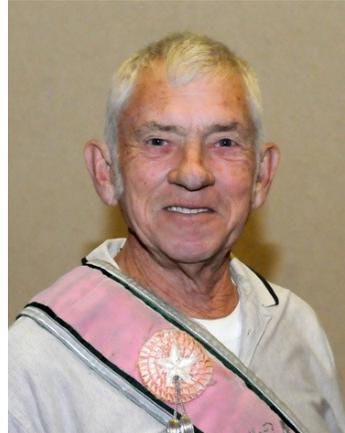
Wishing you a beautiful spring, Happy Mother's Day & Father's Day!
Tricia & Helen

In Memory Of



John Baldwin

*Michigan State Grange
 Executive Committee*



John William Baldwin passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday April 18, 2013. He was 71 years old. John was born on August 29, 1941 to Charles and Lela (Nagle) Baldwin in Hart, Michigan. John was blessed with 4 children and a lifelong marriage to Verna (Raider). He was a Business Manager for the Laborers Union for over 27 years. He

was a member of the Oceana Center Grange #1047, the Kent-Ottawa-Oceana Pomona Grange #18, and the Michigan State Grange, where he served on the Executive Committee since 2011. He enjoyed traveling, and fishing, but first and foremost was always his family. John was a selfless, loving provider for his family who will be deeply missed. SURVIVORS include his wife of over 52 years Verna; 1 son Bruce Baldwin; 3 daughters, Trudy (Greg) Rosema, Toni (Greg Follett) Baldwin, and Tammi (Henry Felcoskie) Denhof; 10 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and 1 brother Charles Baldwin. He was preceded in death by his parents; and grandson John Baldwin. Services were held at Friday April 26 at The Sytsema Chapel, Muskegon, MI.

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servant”

Welcome to the Grange

Augustin Sanchez
 Knickie Wightman
Home #129

Ken & Lois Kramer
 Justin Krasnoff

Lee Clark
Pittsfield Union #882

Eva Rector @
West Oshtemo #1630

James G. Dobbins, MD
 Jeffrey/Julia Greene

Karen Hathon
 Kathy Peters
 Jazon McGillis
 Leroy & Karen Rocco
Fredonia #1713

Jonathan & Sadie Vanderstelt
 Victoria & Olivia Mussell
 John Carey
 Alex & Samantha Comstock
Oceana Center #1047

Phillip Vanhuizen
Summit City #672

Jeff Swainston, Director 2589 144th Ave., Dorr, MI 49323
 Tel: 616-813-8746 jeff@jnsphoto.biz

Roland Winter 15150 A Drive North Marshall, MI 49068
 Tel: 269-781-2500 E-mail rbwin129@comcast.net

Each week I do a segment in the newspaper called "Sidewalk Views." I pick a location and ask people a question. In the paper, we print their response along with their photo. Recently, my question was, "If you could have dinner with the President, what would you talk about?" Answers were quite varied, but I got answers such as health care, the economy, gun control, homeland security, terrorism among others.

One thing I learned from this particular segment was that every person I talked with had a different issue that was a concern for them. That can ring true for all of us. There must be something out there that concerns us as far as legislative activity. It doesn't have to be a national issue, it could be a state or local issue, but its out there.

As a grass-roots advocacy organization, this is where our work kicks in. When we establish policy, it starts at the local Granges and progresses up the ladder through the state and national level. This is the time of year we should start concentrating on the issues that concern us so we can begin working on resolutions for the state convention this fall. Find and issue that is of concern to a majority of your Grange's members. Appoint a committee or work as a group depending on the number of people involved. Do the research. Write the resolution. Pass it along to the next level. Watch what can happen. It works. It is what we are about and who we are. When Chris and I attend the National Grange Legislative Fly-In (or drive-in) in June we will be voicing our support for Grange policy that originated with local Granges across the country.

Whatever our level of involvement in legislative activity, it is always a good idea to keep tabs on what is happening, not only in Washington, but in Lansing and our local communities, as well. And remember, whenever given the opportunity, get out and vote!!



Over the past several months the Foundation has been trying to locate some of the members from over the years who have taken student loans and for one reason or another have not repaid them. We are still in the process of locating those individuals. While this lack of repayment has greatly reduced the amount of funds available for the foundation to use for student loans, rest assured the financial stability of the Michigan State Grange Foundation is in good condition. We have recently made some reassessments of our investments and have invested in some different avenues. We the members of the foundation believe these new investments will generate some funds to allow us the opportunities to assist in the further education of our members. While we encourage our members and non members to contribute to the foundation as a tax exempt organization, we understand the tough economy we are just now starting to emerge from. We look forward to serving the need of our members for years to come.

As a reminder your **student loan applications** are due to either Roland Winter President of the Foundation or Jeff Swainston Secretary/Treasurer of the Foundation prior to **July 1st**.

MSG FOUNDATION,

2589 144th Avenue

Dorr, MI 49323

Please accept my donation to help support the Mission of the Michigan State Grange Foundation.

\$ _____ **In Memory of:**
For Memory _____ **Birthday**

Address _____ **Anniversary**

City/State _____ **Zip** _____ **Deceased**

Donations made by: _____ **Other**

Thank you for your Support!

INSUFFICIENT FUN

"Do you want to get next to something there's a lot of money in?"

"Sure."

"Well, go down town and lean up against a bank."

Junior & Youth/Young Adult Camp

Make your plans to attend! Camp will be June 28-30th at Barnard Grange in Charlevoix. Many activities are in the works, crafts, games and maybe even a tour of a fish hatchery. Pack your clothes, swimsuits, toiletries, sleeping bag and pillows (remember, we are sleeping on the floor) and hit the road for some fun. Remember that you don't have to be a Junior Grange member to join in the fun!

Junior Meetings

Needing an easy craft or game idea for your Juniors? If you have internet access, Pinterest.com is a great website. It is free to join and you can get some great ideas of crafts and games for your Juniors. You can save the ideas to your own "boards" so that you can access them anytime. The site is easy to search and you just might hit on other great ideas for your everyday things such as cleaning tips, cooking (recipes galore!!), party planning, decorating, etc. You can "follow" other members and see what ideas they are "pinning" to their boards. I have a board for crafts, food, travel, etc. If you don't have internet access, feel free to contact me and let me know what kind of idea/craft you are looking for and I'll be happy to do the research for you!!

Here is a Mother's Day and Father's Day craft idea that I got from Pinterest.com:



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*



GREAT LAKES GRANGE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



A couple of weekends ago six Michigan State Grange members went to Minnesota for this conference. A wonderful time was had by all. The theme of the conference was "Growing the Grange", remembering the past, but growing with the future. National Master Ed Luttrell was our Guest speaker. Your youth of the Grange are our future, keep them growing in the Grange. Include them in your programs, listen to them, their ideas might be different from what you think, but who's to say it might be the better way to go!! The Lecturers had programs on growing the Grange also. Have a plan on what to say to people when they ask you "What's the Grange, what do you do, would I like it, do you help the community, can my family join, then you say, "Yes to all the questions and hand them a Membership brochure. But don't forget about them. Get their phone number if they want to think about it. Call them, invite them to a meeting, show them we care about their decision to be with us as a Granger.

Thank you to the folks from Minnesota for a Great day at the Kelly farm. Some people washed windows, some replaced fencing, some made curtains and ironed, while others mended the clothes that they wear from that period of time. We had a light lunch and had a tour of the Kelly Farm. We even saw 2 new baby sheep just born a couple of hours before we got there. It was a fun day of community service work, with a big dose of fellowship with other Granger's. The Michigan folks that attended were: Peg Brown, Darlene VanZuilen, Judy Bowers, Destiny Bowers, Peggy Johnston, and myself. Thank you to all for coming.

DIRECTOR/LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 20th a good group of people attended the conference to learn of changes to the programs and a motivational talk from the membership director, Jackie Bishop. Listening to her encourage us in our work as Grangers, made us feel uplifted, and ready to go out and work even harder! Luanna talked about all the new items she has for deaf awareness and asked for us to contact her for any items we may want. Connie told of up-coming camps for the Juniors and we made picture frames. Good fun. Jeff and Nancy also told of the Youth camp at Minn. In July. Tricia talked about our community service notebooks and maybe not so many pictures for each event. 3-4 are enough to show. Peggy went over the Sect. responsibilities, keeping good records and getting the Grange works out there through the media. Roland had a slide presentation of all the Michigan State Masters and information on each. Jeff talked about our right to have a voice in our Government, and the Lecturer went over the changes in her department with samples of each change and of the parades at session with a couple of them.

She also encouraged "all members to participate in the programs from all the departments."
"Thank you" to those folks who came to this conference on a day when the weather wasn't quite the best !

MEMORIAL DAY



Next month is Memorial Day. This day is celebrated with special services honoring our servicemen, parades, memorials and family gatherings. One thing we can do as a group for a community service project is to go to a cemetery and clean it up. Take some flags along with you and when you find a service persons grave, put your flag next to the stone or in a holder if there is one. When your done, I know for a fact your going to feel so good about what you've done. Take some of your youth with you to help. I know you'll be answering many question's as you go along. It leaves you with a good feeling when your done.

Have a Great Memorial Day !

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

As I write this article, we are fresh off the Director's Conference hosted last Saturday by Gratiot Grange and held at North Star Township Hall. We missed seeing representatives from some of the Granges in Michigan. Speaking for myself, I enjoyed the presentations made by the other Directors, and either learned about their new programs or had the rules clarified by them.

For the Director's Conference, I created a presentation on "Recruiting New Members – You Can Do It!". I would be most happy to visit one of your Grange meetings to present this program. I also have the "Declaration of Purposes" video that the National Grange created that is easily adapted for a program as well. The Declaration of Purposes video is good for both long-time members as well as new or prospective members. Both of these programs have brochures that may be used with them, so attendees have a take-away. Especially since our weather is better now, I am willing to travel to Granges in Michigan.

Some of you may have events that you would like me to attend, instead of presenting a specific program. That is fine too. Last year, I called and spoke with someone at each Grange in Michigan. It is a bit unrealistic for me to come visit each Grange this year, but I enjoy being in your midst and would love an invitation. Because my schedule can get a bit complex, notice ahead is necessary. Just let me know when and where and I will do my best to be there!

As I review my four words for Membership this year in Michigan, it seems that this article is about **People**. One of the key components of membership – both recruiting new members and retaining existing members is to consider what we have to offer that interests the "people" and meets their needs. We tend to instead think about how they can help us accomplish existing projects. This is hard, because there are certain long-standing projects that each Grange has that need a certain number of people to execute them successfully. The question, for each of these projects that needs to be asked: "Is this project still relevant for our community and our members?" "If it is not, then what are the current issues or concerns of the communities that we live in that the Grange can be a part of the solution for, or be the information provider about. This means existing members need to be open to new ideas and new projects, especially as we recruit new members who may bring new ideas forward.

In my opinion, the Granges of Michigan need to reach out to other organizations in their communities and consider ways that collaboration and cooperation can occur. This is not a new concept, and it is one that has been promoted from the National Grange with regard to Community Service projects for many years. Now, with dwindling resources available to all groups, collaboration and cooperation are important for the survival of all of us. Examples might be working with your local township or town boards, 4-H clubs, other civic organizations, and schools. How creative can you be?

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Plan! Publicize! Persevere! People!

Grange Month Events

Mosherville Grange #1351

Mosherville Grange presented Marilyn Kies with the Community Citizen Award at their recent Appreciation Dinner and Program. Marilyn has donated her time to help many program, and projects in the Mosherville area.



Burns Grange #160

Burns Grange held a special dinner and program during Grange month to honor several people.

Maryette Kucharski was presented with her 25 year certificate and pin by Master, Sharon Popler.

Josh Strickland, was presented the Dedicated Worker Award by Connie Johnston, Gatekeeper of Burns Grange for the DurandNow.com website that he has started to keep the local community informed of what has or is happening in the area.

Destiny Bowers, newest member of Burns Grange and a senior at Corunna High School presented Dave Harvey, a teacher at Corunna and his Rose the Community Citizen Award for the hundreds of cookies they make each year to sell to the students to raise money for local needs.

Chris Johnston, National Grange Gatekeeper, Michigan State Grange Master, Burns Grange Steward, was presented with the V.I.P Award for his dedication to the Grange on all levels. The award was presented to him by Sharon Popler, Master of Burns Grange.

Our congratulations to all Award recipients.



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Spring Planting Time?

It is time to plant but as of today it was only in the low 40s here in Niles and it tried to snow. According to the forecast, we will be seeing Spring the first of next week!! With all of the rain we have been getting, it is going to be a little while before farmers can get back in their fields and start planting. This brings up a very important reminder. Please watch out for slow moving vehicles on the roads for the next month or so. I know it slows us down when we get stuck behind a big tractor pulling the even bigger field equipment but it is very important for us to be cautious when behind them. The drivers of these vehicles have a lot to watch out for while driving down the road. Not only do they have to watch out for us on the road but they are also watching for limbs, mailboxes, road signs etc. so they do not do damage to those items or their equipment. We have to be mindful that if it wasn't for these farmers, where would most of our food come from?

It is also time for us gardeners to start preparing our garden plots for the coming growing season. I am sure everyone has their gardens planned so they know exactly what to purchase at their favorite place to purchase their plants. Maybe you like starting your own plants from seeds and have been growing those seedlings into nice healthy plants that you will be transplanting outside very soon. Please keep in mind that I still would love to hear from Granges and Grangers alike about how their gardens are doing throughout the growing season. When the harvesting starts on your plots, if you have some extra produce do not let it go to waste but share with family, friends, fellow Grange members and neighbors. I am sure whoever is the receiver of this kind gesture will truly be blessed with the liberal harvest of your hard work. Until the next time... Happy Planting!!

The National Grange Youth will be hosting a Degree Day on July 13, 2013 at the Kelley Farm in Elk River, Minnesota. Michigan Youth will be involved in the conferral of the 2nd Degree in combination with the Great Plains region. As of right now we have 4 youth that are tentatively scheduled to take part.

The Youth will have a practice at the Kelley Farm on Friday July 12 and the conferral of the first four degrees will take place on Saturday July 13. We will plan to have a carpool for all the youth from Michigan that are wanting to go. We also have several interested Grange members from around the state that have expressed an interest in attending. This event is open to all Grangers across the country. There will be limited places to stay due to other major events in the Minneapolis area that same weekend so make your reservations early. Detailed information is available on the National Grange website at www.nationalgrange.org.

This same weekend will also double as Midwest Youth Conference and we will pass along those details as they become available. We will post that information on our Facebook page and the MSG webpage as soon as possible.

Also, mark your calendars. Youth camp will be held in conjunction with Junior camp at Barnard Grange in Charlevoix June 28-30, 2013 Again, as more details become available it will be posted on Facebook and the MSG website.

If you have any questions on either one of these events please contact me at jeff@jnsphoto.biz or 616-813-8746

MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS BY EMAIL

If you are receiving the Michigan Grange News by mail and would just as soon have it by email...please either call/leave a message or email the Michigan State Grange at msgrange1873@yahoo.com and let us know. We will do our best to send it to you in that form.

This is one way we can save the Michigan State Grange some money. The Post Office keeps raising the postage price and they don't forget to raise the cost of mailing periodicals either.

Every little bit helps! Thank You!

In Memory Of...



Eva Grant
Home #129

Esther Pfister
Rome #293

June Ohlman
North Adrian #721

John Baldwin
Oceana Center #1047

[2013 Kelley Farm Experience](#)

The Exemplification of the 1873 Degrees

Date: Saturday, July 13, 2013

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Location:

Oliver H. Kelley Farm
15788 Kelley Farm Road
Elk River, Minnesota 55330

Admission Prices:

\$6 (for ages 6 through 99)

\$15 (for non-Grange members – includes Kelley Farm fee)

This event is rain or shine.

Free parking at the Kelley Farm.

Bring a picnic or visit our food vendors.

Purchase tickets online now through July 1st

The Oliver H. Kelley Farm is located in Elk River, Minnesota, 50 minutes from the Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport (MSP). Travel to your hotel and the Kelley Farm are most convenient by rental car, available at the airport.

The National Grange has secured blocks of rooms at special rates.

Please book your room directly with the hotel of your choice.

All rooms are first come, first served.



Exemplification OF THE 1873 Degrees

OLIVER H. KELLEY FARM
JULY 13, 2013

Cambria Suites Maple Grove	Sleep Inn & Suites
9655 Grove Circle N Maple Grove, MN 55369 (763) 494-5556 Rate: \$109 plus 10.275% tax per night Breakfast included. Cut off date: June 28th	20930 So. Diamond Lake Road Rogers, MN 55374 (763) 428-3000 Rate: \$119 plus 7.275% tax per night Breakfast included. Cut off date: May 12th