



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XIX NO. 5

USPS 345-580

September/October 2013

140th Annual Convention

MARSHALL, MICHIGAN

B. E. HENRY COMMUNITY BUILDING

615 S. MARSHALL AVENUE, MARSHALL, MI

OCTOBER 17-19, 2013

Hotel Accommodations will be at the Marshall Comfort Inn

204 Winston Drive, Marshall, MI Tel: 269-789-7890

Cost for rooms will be \$79.00 + tax: Total 87.69 per night

Rooms must be reserved by September 16th in order to receive this rate.

Meals will be at the Marshall First United Methodist Church

The members of Region #3 : Oceana Center #1047, Carlisle #812, Kinney #754, Home #129, and Berlin Center #272 invite you to attend.

National Representatives to our Convention



William "Chip" Narval, Jr.

National Grange Steward

Chip and his wife Barbara will be our National Grange Representatives this year during our 140th Annual Convention. Chip joined the Grange as a member of Harmony Junior Grange, and has been a member of Harmony Community Grange for 48 years. He has held several positions at all levels, including Master/President of the Delaware State Grange, Harmony Grange and Overseer of the New Castle County Pomona Grange, as well as Co-Youth Director, Assistant Steward, and Overseer of the Delaware State Grange. He was elected as NG Gatekeeper in 2007 and Steward in 2009

Chip has worked for the Dupont Company since 1969 and retired from the Army Reserves after 21 years of service. He is a member of the Steering Committee for "Day on the Farm" with the Univ. of Delaware Cooperative Service. He has been very active as a volunteer, coach, and Board of Directors member of the Midway Girls Softball League for many years. Chip is currently a coach for the Thunder Bear's Special Olympic Team.

Chip and his wife Barbara have four children and 3 grandchildren and live in the Pike Creek Area.

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<i>Resolutions</i>	<i>Caught on Camera</i>	<i>Harvest Time</i>	<i>Exemplification of the 1873 Degrees</i>	<i>Huge Thank You</i>	<i>Farm Bill</i>

www.michiganstategrange.org



Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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Christopher D. Johnston

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Christopher D. Johnston, Editor
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

Sept. 2	LABOR DAY
Sept. 3	Back to school for many students
Sept. 10	Reports/notebooks Due
Sept. 15	Drawing for the "Log Cabin Quilt"
Sept. 21	Drawing for the "Gift Card" Raffle
Oct. 1	Resolutions due to the State Grange Office
Oct. 17-19	140th Convention

Whole page \$150.00

1/2 page \$90.00

1/4 page / business card \$50.00

The above rates include advertising

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10 issues per year June/July & Oct./Nov. are combined.
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E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Chaplain

Fall Approaching

Kathryn Strouse, Chaplain P.O. Box 84, North Star, MI 48862
Tel: 989-875-2894 E-mail: katjoy98@yahoo.com

Well summer has come and the fall is fast approaching. The wheat has been harvested and the pickles have been picked. Peaches are finally starting to get ripe and sweet corn and tomatoes are now ready.

In just one short week kids will be going back to school. Where has the time gone? I look around and see the final buds on my rose bushes and how my fall flowers are getting ready to show me some color and I have to sit down and wonder why I have not notice these changes until now. Have I been too busy to notice God's beauty? Have I been too busy to sit and listen to God's words that the birds and the bees sing during the summer? I guess I have. It makes me sad. On the radio a song plays that Casting Crowns sings. It is called "If We are the Body" and the chorus stands out to me. It goes:

But if we are the body
Why aren't his arms reaching
Why aren't his hands healing
Why aren't his words teaching
If we are the body
Why aren't his feet going
Why is his love not showing them there is a way"

I have to wonder if that is not true for all of us. Are we too busy with "vacation" to take time to talk and listen to God? Are we too busy to reach out to others that are in need? Are our hands too busy to reach out to someone that is in need of a hug? God's love is the way for all things. He is the reason why we have seasons, crops and food to feed and support us. He is the reason why we have trees, grass and flowers to feast our eyes on. He made us and the animals around us so that we can enjoy and love all living things. But are we too busy to enjoy all that he gives us. I know that people like to go camping and fishing with their families during the summer but let us know forget those who can not or are unable to go do things because of unknown reasons. Let us reach out to them and let our hands, feet and words be a part of God's body that shows them the "Way".

Hope your fall is full of God's blessings.

Welcome to the Grange

Stephanie Pelky	Platte Grange #1325	
Kenneth/Ema Murray	Fredonia #13713	(reinstated)
Russell Hoag	Community #1675	
Melody Conrad	Community #1675	
Don/Rennie Scharmen	Summit City #672	
Shayne Arsenault	Summit City #672	
Marilyn Kies	Mosherville #1351	
Philip/Gwendolyn Curtis	West Oshtemo #1630	
Susan Cousino	Rome #293	
Soren Sheffer	Burns #160	
Sheila Graziano	Pittsfield Union #882	
Bob Hosparaduh	Pittsfield Union #882	
Richard Wilcos	Pittsfield Union #882	
Audrey Ewing	Plymouth/Westfield #389	

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

Resolution Time

The time for the convention is once again upon us. During the convention we take the time to deliberate upon the policy for the Michigan State Grange for the ensuing year. We set these policies by our resolution process, for those of you who do not know how this works; Subordinate or Pomona Granges write resolutions of things they would like to see changed either in the state or nationally, either in the Grange or outside of the Grange. Resolutions are due to the Michigan State Grange Secretary by October 1st in paper form. You can email your resolutions in to the office but they must be accompanied by a paper copy with the Master’s and the Secretary’s signature, as well as the date it was adopted by your Grange. If you have resolutions after the first of October, you can bring them to me at the convention with ten copies plus the original. All resolutions must be in resolution form, if you need assistance with what this means please let me know and I will assist you in that process. If you have supporting information for your resolutions please include that when you send them in.

National Reps

I am pleased to welcome Brother William “Chip” Narvel, Steward of the National Grange, and his wife, Sister Barb, to the Michigan State Grange Convention. I have had the pleasure of knowing the two of them for five years now and have found them to fun energetic individuals with a great love for the organization as a whole. I hope each of you take the time to greet them and welcome them to Michigan.

National Grange

The registration information is available on the National Grange website at www.nationalgrange.org or by contacting the National Grange office at 1-888-447-2643. The National Grange convention is being held in Manchester N.H. November 12-16. This is the only time of the year you can sit and witness the National Grange in action, deliberating upon the resolutions from across the country that will set the policy of the National Grange for the next year. During the convention you also have the opportunity to witness the seventh degree

of our order as well as the convocation of the Assembly of Demeter, which is the business meeting that deliberates on ritual changes approved from the National Grange delegate body.

Report Forms

Remember, the annual report forms are due by September 10. Please make sure that your Grange fills out the reports and gets them in to the appropriate individuals.

Until next time.....



REMINDER

**ALL REPORT FORMS DUE
SEPTEMBER 10TH**

LECTURER’S REPORT
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
FAMILY ACTIVITIES REPORT
JUNIOR REPORT
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT REPORT
COMMUNITY SERVICE NOTEBOOKS
DEAF AWARENESS REPORT

**Please be sure to mail them to the proper
Directors (not the State Grange Office)**

**Resolutions due to the State Office by
October 1st**

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

It's back to school and college time again. Where did the summer go? I hope all of you were able to carry out your plans.

I want to THANK the Granges and Grangers on their donations to the Deaf Awareness Fund. Again this year we were able to present a scholarship to the Valedictorian at the Michigan School for the Deaf plus assist two students financially from the school to attend a camp. We also helped the Alexander Graham Bell purchase supplies for the summer camps. It is still not too late to donate if you haven't. These "groups" really appreciate our assistance.

We are still asking for afghans, quilts, fleeces, and blankets for the Michigan School for the Deaf. Last year 35 were made and donated to the school. They are used in the TV room, the game room and in the dorm rooms. Bring the finished "project" to the State Grange Convention.

Continue to save pop tabs and clean aluminum, Campbell Soup points (if you are not sure about this bring the complete label) and Box Tops for Education. We are still collecting items for the Dog for the Deaf Program — snacks, toys, food, etc.

Speaking of the Michigan School for the Deaf, I need to know if you or your Grange would like to have an Adopt-a-child for Christmas. I do have some Grange and Grangers names already but I need to make sure you still want to be involved. It is a very rewarding program and the expressions on the student's faces is worth everything. (See my address and e-mail at the top of the page) Thanks!

I have received a few Deaf Awareness Reports. The deadline is coming up soon (September 10, 2013). I would like everyone to send in the report whether you do a lot or just a little. Each report is important! Please put your name and the Grange name and number at the end of the report. Thank You!

I hope you will consider entering the Essay Contest. There are 3 divisions:

- Division I: Junior Grange members
- Division II: Youth Grange members
- Division III: Subordinate Grange members

Rules:

1. All entries are to be sent to the Deaf Awareness Director by September 10 with Division number, name, Grange name and number and county.
2. Essays must be on the topic "Deaf Awareness". They can be based on true happenings, educational or purely fiction.
3. Stay within a 300 word limit.

Awards:

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division will be recognized with ribbons and certificates and the Junior Grange members will also be awarded with prize money — 1st place — \$3.00, 2nd place—\$2.00, 3rd place — \$1.00.

Let's see some entries in each class!!!

Junior Grange Deaf Awareness Poster Contest is open to Junior Grange members or children or grandchildren of Grange members. There are 4 age groups — 5 and under,

6-9, 10-11, 12-14 . Poster to be made on poster board (max.

size 18-24 inches) Crayons, markers, pencils, pens, cut out pictures and/or photos can be used. Place the entrants name on the back of the poster along with age, Junior Grange name and number and county. The judging will be on the correctness of the message and educational value of poster and neatness. The awards will be ribbons along with money awards — 1st place — \$3.00, 2nd place — \$2.00, 3rd place — \$1.00. The poster is to be at the State Grange Convention by Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. Bring it or send it with delegates to where the posters will be judged.

If you have any questions on any of the articles, please contact me. Have a good fall!!!!

"Caught on Camera"

Cory Johnston was "caught" doing some sign to the Pledge of Allegiance poster at the Director's Conference. "Caught on Camera" by his dad, Chris.



GROW CLUB

Each year I try to update the GROW Club display and again this year I need your help. Letters will be going out to last year's recipients but I need everyone to update their pictures and "blurbs" if there are changes. I can use everyone's cooperation on this. Send the pictures and articles to me by mail at 965- 108th St. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 or e-mail me at plswainston@hotmail.com. Thanks!

Luanna Swainston

Judy Bowers 11802 Reed Road, Byron, MI 48418 Tel: 517-242-2790 Email: judykaybowers@yahoo.com

Another Grange year is coming to a close. It's time to bring in the harvest and reap the rewards of our labor.

Our communities have benefited from the action of good deeds of Michigan Grangers in so many ways, from handing out dictionaries to third graders to making and giving lap robes to our military veterans. We have made an impact on many lives. A job well done good and faithful servant.

It's time for our voices to be heard at the state and national level. Resolutions need to be written, discussed, and voted on. We have an obligation to our fellow man to try and enrich the lives of all Americans. We mustn't forget to thank and show appreciation to our members. We do this by recognizing their hard work and accomplishments with kind words, certificates, plaques, and ribbons. Everyone likes to be appreciated and given a pat on the back now and then. Sometimes I don't think we say the words "THANK YOU" enough.

The report forms give the directors a picture of the workings and activities of the Granges. They are also a way for us to show our appreciation and reward you for all that you do in your communities. The contests in the different departments also give us a way to recognize the talents of our brothers and sisters. There's nothing wrong with this, we need an outlet to showcase the variety of skills that Grangers possess. I feel every person has some kind of a talent or skill, it could be sewing, public speaking, anything. We just need to find that talent and encourage our members to use it.

Speaking of contest, there is one in particular that I hope has quite a few entries. The **NATIONAL QUILT BLOCK**. What a great way to celebrate the **NATIONAL GRANGE "150th" BIRTHDAY**. This is the second block, A CHRISTMAS STAR, representing the season winter that we have been asked to make. One block will be chosen by the judges, and it will be sent to the national convention to be used in a quilt, what an honor. It could be yours!

By the time you read this article there will only be a couple weeks left to sell raffle tickets on the beautiful LOG CABIN QUILT. Please make an effort to sell tickets, I know it's harder to sell the tickets when you don't have the item, however our state secretary sent out a colored photo of the quilt along with tickets to Granges across Michigan. All the proceeds will go to region 3 that is hosting this year's convention. Next year it could be your region. I'm already picturing next year's quilt.

Thank you for all you do for the GRANGE!

Fraternally, Judy



Labels for Education

Labels for Education is an easy program where families and the community can earn points for their schools. By collecting these points schools can redeem them for Arts, Athletic, and Academic merchandise. Some of these brands that have the labels on them are BIC, Campbell's, DANNON, Emerald, Glad, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, Pop Secret, Post, Prego, SpagettiO's, Swanson, V8 Beverages, V8 Splash, V8 Fusion, and Wolfgang Puck. I have asked for a list of all the products that are included in this program. I hope to get it before my Deaf Awareness Bulletin goes out for October, November, and December. Ask your chairman if she has it. If you don't have a school nearby, please take them to the State Session (or send with your delegates). Please save them, don't get rid of them! Thanks, Luanna Swainston, MSG Deaf Awareness Director.

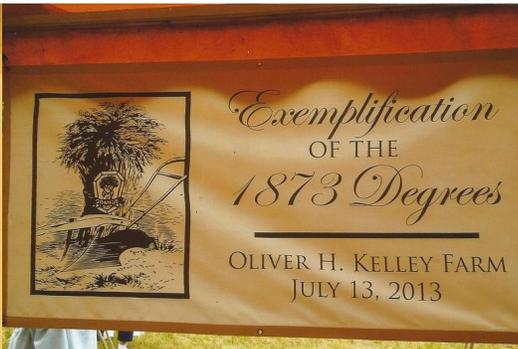
FERN GRANGE MEMBERS HOLD DEGREE DAY



The members of Fern Grange #803 in Mecosta County started their special day with a potluck dinner at noon. Members of the Grange with the assistance of Dale Moore, Studley Grange #1174, Sharon Pople and Peggy Johnston, Burns Grange #160 and Gratiot Grange #1898 opened the Grange in regular form. The first two degrees were then conferred. It was decided by the members to wait and do the other two degrees at a later date. Great Job Done!



Christopher Johnston

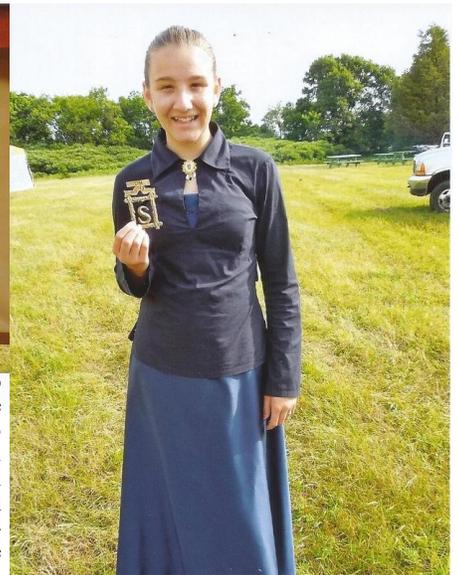


On July 13, 2013, there were 13 Michiganders who attended the Kelley Farm to see the Exemplifications of the Degrees as they were given in 1873. We were privileged to have 2 of our members involved in the 2nd Degree clad in “outfits” of the time. Chris Johnston was the Overseer and Jessica Swainston was Steward. They did a great job! Did you know that each of the degrees had 2 separate exemplifications — one for the men delegates and one for the women delegates? That was very interesting.

We also did some “touring” of the farm. Everything is done as it was in Oliver H. Kelley’s time. Oxen were used to harvest the hay (not in bales either) and put in the barn with hay forks. The gardens were planted with many vegetables and were planted, hoed and picked by hand. Aside from the oxen, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs were raised on the farm. It was a self-sufficient farm.

If any of you have not been to the Farm I would suggest a trip there. It is really interesting and informative.

— *Luanna Swainston*



Jessica Swainston



Kelley Homestead



Barn at the Farm

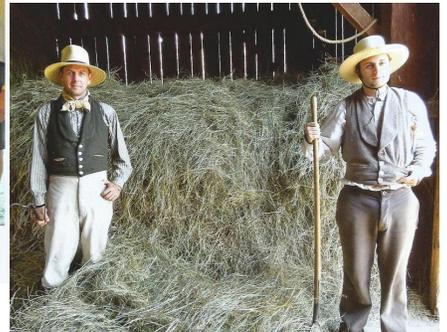


Oxen ready to go to the field to gather hay

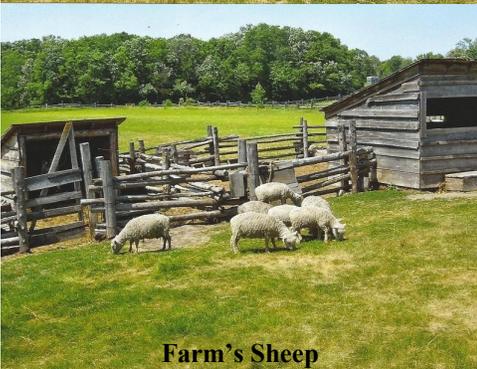


Michiganders

Back Row: Tricia Eidsmoe, Chris Johnston, Arnette Welsh, Phil Swainston, Nancy Swainston, Jeff Swainston, Ted Mudd. Middle Row: Connie Johnston, Jessica Swainston, Luanna Swainston, Helen Mudd. Front Row: Cory Johnston & Marc Johnston



The farmers who took care of the hay



Farm’s Sheep



2nd Degree Team



Farm’s Horses and Cows

Plan to visit the farm soon!

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

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

Here we are, approaching the autumn season. School will be starting soon and with that, the annual reports are due to the Michigan State Grange. Hopefully you have completed your community service book or are working on it. As of the writing of this article, I still need to get my book completed for Studley Grange!

I have tried to pass along information in previous Grange News as a guide to putting together the community service book. If you have any questions at all, please give me a call or email me. I want to help in any way possible.

Tuesday, September 10 your book needs to be at my house in Midland. If you have any questions or problems with this date or need to make special arrangements to get the book to me, please contact me. I am willing to work with you so that your community service book can be entered in the contest this year.

In the meantime, enjoy the remaining days of summer! I look forward to seeing you at the Michigan State Grange convention in Marshall.

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10

A BABY HAS ARRIVED!

Jordan Wesley Swainston

Born: July 6, 2013

Weight: 5 lbs. 12 oz.

Length: 18 inches

Proud Mom and Dad:

Craig & Kristina Swainston

Brother:

PJ Swainston

Grandparents:

Phil and Luanna Swainston

All members of
Kinney Grange #754 or
Carlisle Grange #812

Congratulations to all!

The Michigan State Grange Foundation is continuing the process of trying to collect outstanding past due student loans. The Student Loan Program is the most utilized benefit that the Foundation offers to Grange members who are trying to advance their education. This program is available to all ages. The way to guarantee that the program will continue is the repayment of the loans once repayment is required.

The documentation of the Student Loan process has been revised so that it becomes clearer to the borrower when and how repayment is expected. It also gives the Foundation the ability to collect on these loans should there be a default.

The Student Loan program is a great program that we would like to be able to see continue for years to come. Your Grange may be contacted directly in hopes of assisting us to locate borrowers and co-signors of loans that are in default. Please be supportive of your board of directors of the Michigan State Grange Foundation in this effort.

**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!

**October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came -
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.**

~George Cooper, "October's Party"

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the Granges that sent a **donation** to the **Junior Fund!** Your support is very much appreciated and will go towards increasing the Junior membership through offering camps and other activities at no cost to Juniors. It is nice to see the support from so many Granges!

Next month is the Annual State Session. Have you sent in your report forms yet? Even if you don't have a Junior Grange or Junior members, please, still send your reports in so I can get an idea of what might be needed in different areas to increase the membership. Plus, your Grange will receive an award of appreciation just for turning those forms in. Don't forget you can email them to me as well!

Last year at session, we increased the Junior attendance by half...as good as that sounds, it wasn't. It was just going from two Juniors to three. Can we double, triple, quadruple (you get the idea) that number this year?!! I would love to have a longer train of Juniors to parade on the session floor. That is one of our times to shine!! But it is going to take your commitment to get those Juniors there, remember, the Juniors ages are 5-14 which means they are too young to drive themselves, so we need your help in getting them there.

This also brings up another point, the Junior Luncheon attendance has been pretty sparse the last couple years as well. If you missed last year's luncheon, you missed a good time. We like to have fun and had a lot of laughter last year with the "Order of the Forks". Come see what we come up with this year!! I would LOVE to see more people attending to show the Juniors their support! And reminder, if you have any Juniors, they do attend this meal at no cost, just make sure to get tickets so that there is an accurate count.

"SUPPORT THE JUNIOR GRANGE"

Plan to attend the Junior Luncheon

2014 Michigan State Grange Convention

The location of the convention, the hotel that is being used, and where the meals will be held is listed on the front page. A contact number for reservations for the Comfort Inn is listed there also. Remember rooms are \$79.00 + tax that totals \$87.69 per night. Rooms must be reserved prior to **September 16th** in order to guarantee a room. Please remember this and get your reservations made.

We do not have prices at this point on the meals, but as soon as we have that information the credentials will be mailed to the secretaries and a letter with this info will also be sent to the Masters. We apologize for any inconvenience. Another thing to remember is that meal tickets **must be** purchased prior to October 1st. Tickets will not be saved with out payment.

- Price information will soon be ready for the following meals:
- Past/Present, New Delegate, GROW Club luncheon — Thursday noon
 - Salute to Ag Dinner — Thursday evening
 - Family Activities — Friday noon
 - Junior Grange Luncheon — Saturday noon
 - Annual Banquet — Saturday evening

We encourage everyone to attend these meal functions that are planned. As it says in the above Junior Grange article...please plan to attend the Junior Grange luncheon and support the Juniors.

Hope to see all of you at the convention — help to make it a success!!

Sharon Popler 3640 E. Bath Road Morrice, Michigan 48857 Tel: 989-634-5748 E-mail gma4hugs@hotmail.com)

Okay, where'd summer go??? I know that we've been busy with all our Grange events at our hall, but it just doesn't seem like it should be September now. And in just a little over a month we'll be having State Session. This year has been so busy.

I hope everyone's summer has been full of fun events! Family gatherings, vacations, Grange functions. That's what the summer's about. Yep! And who can forget working in our gardens and yards, or fields. We get to enjoy the rewards of all our hard work now! All our fresh produce. How good is it!!!

Below are two articles that I read and thought you might enjoy them. One of them we can do right now by working in our gardens. When I'm in my garden working, I am most of the time bare foot. The heat from the dirt feels good on my old feet.

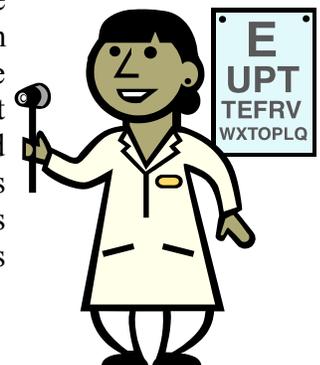
BAREFOOT BENEFITS

Research suggest that a practice called earthing, —walking around barefoot and putting your feet in direct contact with the ground— may decrease pain and improve heart health. Your absorbing the earth's negatively charged electrons. They act similarly to antioxidants, balancing out positive free radicals that contribute to inflammation. Just 20 minutes of earthing eases pain and inflammation; 40 minutes begins to reduce blood viscosity—thick blood may lead to heart attacks and strokes in vulnerable people researchers report. To enjoy these benefits, go shoeless in your garden or wiggle your toes in the sand.



DIFFICULTY DRIVING AT NIGHT

A common concern for aging eyes is cataracts, which affect the lens, at the front of the eye. Normally, the lens is clear, but when a cataract forms, the lens becomes more opaque. This causes glare, fuzziness and a "halo" effect around lights. Diabetes also have problems, because higher blood sugar can affect the vitreous humor (the liquid in the middle of the eye) and cause temporary swelling inside the eye. There are other possibilities too. Does your night vision get better after 15 to 20 minutes? Being in bright, unfiltered light for 2-3 hours can slow how quickly your eyes adapt to lower light. Intense light amplifies your cone cells but doesn't activate your rods, so it takes the rods longer to come back online in dim light, especially as you age. Allowing 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt before you hit the road can help, as can wearing sunglasses during the day. And try a multivitamin that covers your vitamin A and C and beta-carotene needs, as well as omega-3 capsules. But always consult your Dr. if any problems occur



Autumn Squash Recipe:

Ingredients: 1 c. mashed cooked acorn or butternut squash, 1/2 c. crushed butter-flavored crackers, divided, 4 T butter, melted, divided, 1 egg, lightly beaten, 1 T. brown sugar, 1—2 tsp. prepared mustard, 1/8 tsp. salt, 1/8 tsp. pepper.

Directions: In a large bowl, combine the squash, 1/4 c. the squash, 1/4 c. cracker crumbs, 2 T butter, egg, brown sugar, mustard, salt and pepper. Pour into a greased 2 1/2 c baking dish. Combine remaining crumbs and butter; sprinkle over top. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Yield: 2 servings.

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

It's not too late to send your annual Membership Report to me. For some reason, these reports have been coming in at a slower pace than previous years. Special recognition given for gains in membership will be based on the official reports sent to the Michigan State Grange with your dues and will be based on the change in membership in your Grange from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Since I tried to emphasize the importance of planning this year, I would especially be interested in knowing what plans your Grange made during the year for gaining or retaining members, and how the plans were implemented. All Granges which submit a report will receive special recognition at the Michigan State Grange session.

As I reviewed the articles that I have written for the *Michigan Grange News* this year, and reviewed my byline for the year – at the end of this article and each one I have submitted – I realized that I have discussed the “Persevere” part very little.

Perhaps the hardest part of growing our membership is to Persevere. I checked out a thesaurus to come up with a few other words that mean the same thing. “Persist” seemed to be the most common similar word, but some others I found seem to be more descriptive, and maybe they can help you as well – “stick it out”, “press on”, “keep trying”, “keep it up”, “carry on”. You will note that in order to accomplish any of these, you had to already be working on something, so the assumption is that you started with a plan and have begun its implementation. Sometimes, the plan seemed perfect, but when the implementation of the plan was begun and was ongoing, it didn't quite turn out as expected. Instead of throwing up our hands in despair, we must instead then modify the plan and fine tune it, but certainly persevere and move forward.

For the past two years I used the “Ya gotta wanna” phrase, which I did not emphasize this year, but this is where that comes in again. A truly dedicated Granger that wants their Grange to grow will persevere even in the advent of roadblocks. The fact of the matter is that it is necessary to Persevere in order for the Patrons of Husbandry to continue on in our current world. Creative, new approaches must be tried, especially when things don't go the way we had hoped.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Marshall at the Michigan State Grange session. See you there.

Plan! Publicize! Persevere! People!

Deaf Awareness and Junior Grange Appeal for Funds

All Granges have received an appeal from both the Deaf Awareness Director and the Junior Director for donations to help their departments. Both departments are still waiting to hear from many Granges or individuals.

These departments run mostly on the support of the Subordinate and Pomona Granges in Michigan. Please help if you possibly can.

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

Don't forget to send in the Youth/Young Adult report forms and the Achievement Award forms by September 10, 2013, to Jeff and Nancy Swainston 2589 - 144th Ave, Dorr, MI 49323. We are also in need of youth and young adults to march on Saturday morning during our State Grange Session 2013. If you are available the weekend of October 18 and 19 please join us in Marshall, MI, on Friday evening to practice marching and enjoy a pizza party. The youth and young adults will once again be opening the State Session on Saturday morning. We hope to see many youth this year.

Thank you!
 Nancy and Jeff.

A Few Fall Activities

Michigan State Grange Convention
 National Grange Convention
 Harvest Dinners
 Halloween Activities
 Football/Soccer Games
 Craft Shows
 Pumpkin Carving
 Color tours
 Harvesting Apples
 Pine cone crafts
 Trips to through the corn maze
 Preparing for Winter
 ...and lots more so enjoy!

In Memory Of...



Donna Jean Hauri
 Studley #1174

Dean Yoder
 Torch Lake #1840

Vivian Foor
 North Adrian #721

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servants”

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

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

Wow!! It is hard to believe that Summer is almost over. I believe most all county fairs have wrapped up for another year, except for St. Joseph County Grange Fair and Hillsdale County Fair that are near the end of September. Most gardens have been producing for a few months. I don't know about you, but my tomatoes just are not getting ripe fast enough. It might be because since mid July the temperatures have been seasonably cooler at night. It is great for not having to run the a/c all the time but when you would like to have tomatoes to can, not so good. Before long, field crops will be ready to harvest. With that in mind, we have to remember to watch out for our neighbors when roads require for us and wait off the them to road to around them.



they are on the with their farm ment. It is eas-to slow down until they are road than for pull off the let us go

With this time of year comes the Annual Michigan State Grange Session. I do not remember the deadline for them but it would be nice to see some good resolutions sent in for the different committees to work on and bring to the Session Floor for action. Remember our Organization was founded on the basis agricultural purposes in mind. What better time than right now to work on resolutions that would show what our great organization still believes in... American Values Hometown Roots! Our Country needs to understand just how important agriculture is in this great Nation. The Grange has a rich history of getting laws put in place for Rural America. For instance rural mail delivery is one of the biggest items that the Grange pushed to have in place for Rural people. What the Grange needs to push for is The Farm Bill. If the correct things are not included in the new Farm Bill, it will not be good for Agriculture.

See you in Marshall for the State Session in October.

The following information is taken from a recent update from National Grange Legislative Director, Grace Boatright, concerning the progress, or lack thereof, on the 2013 Farm Bill. We need to keep pressing our legislators to some type of agreement on this pending legislation.

Unfortunately, there isn't much to report regarding the 2013 Farm Bill. The House passed their version of the Farm Bill last week, which did not include a Nutrition Title, most of which is food stamps. Obviously, when the Senate passed their version a few months ago, it did include the Nutrition Title. Senator Stabenow (Chairwoman of the Senate Ag Committee) isn't very happy about the House's version and went so far as to say that it isn't a real Farm Bill because it doesn't contain a Nutrition Title.

Also, the House Farm Bill repeals the "permanent law" from the 1930's and replaces it with the provisions outlined in their new bill. If passed, these provisions would become the new permanent law. I don't see the Senate getting excited about that either.

Still, the House sent their bill to the Senate last week and now we're waiting to see how they handle things. There are several ways things could go now. The Senate could take up the scaled down House Farm Bill and either pass it as it is or make changes and then send it back to the House. They could also negotiate with the House on the "Farm Program" only Titles. Personally, I don't see this happening.

The other option is for the Senate to send their version over to the House for consideration. However, going that route, the Senate version cannot be technically considered by the House in its present form because of the differences dealing with revenue issues. Thus, the Senate Farm Bill has been "blue slipped" by the House Ways and Means Committee due to these constitutional issues dealing with revenue. Last, the Senate Agriculture Committee could negotiate with the House Agriculture Committee on the farm program only provisions in the two respective bills. That seems to be where things are headed.

Both chambers have agreed to a conference but have not set a date for that conference. August recess begins on the 5th and ends on September 9th, giving them three weeks in September to work on it before the current provisions expire on September 30th. In other words, they better hurry things up. However, as we all know, Congress doesn't know the meaning of "hurry".

I'll keep you guys updated as things progress. In the meantime, please continue calling and emailing your representatives urging them to reach an agreement.

LAST CHANCE

TWO BIG RAFFLES

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE GIFT CARD RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE: \$500.00 GIFT CARD

2ND PRIZE: \$250.00 GIFT CARD

Gift Card is Winner's Choice

Drawing: September 21, 2013 —7:30 p.m.— St. Joseph County Fairgrounds

Tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

If 1200 tickets are not sold, raffle reverts to a 50/50

Proceeds to help the Michigan State Grange

License# R22303

FAMILY ACTIVITIES RAFFLE

LOG CABIN QUILT

Drawing: September 15, 2013 —2:30 p.m.—Burns Grange #160

Tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Proceeds to help 2013 State Grange Convention Hosting Committee

License # X84458

Order your tickets today from the State Grange Office
And Sell, Sell, Sell!!!!

REMINDER

ALL REPORT FORMS DUE

SEPTEMBER 10TH

LECTURER'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FAMILY ACTIVITIES REPORT

JUNIOR REPORT

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT REPORT

COMMUNITY SERVICE NOTEBOOKS

DEAF AWARENESS REPORT

Please be sure to mail them to the proper

Directors (not the State Grange Office)

Resolutions due to the State Office by

October 1st

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!