



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XX NO. 1

USPS 345-580

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2014

Michigan School for the Deaf Christmas Party



Mark Bouvy, Business Manager at Michigan School for the Deaf welcomed the Grange and thanked them for all of the great things they do for the school.



Shane & Catlyn sporting their new winter



Hannah, Jojo, James and Kaitlyn enjoying pizza, chips, cookies, pop/water

What a great bunch of young people!

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Michigan Grange News

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JAN. 12 Michigan State Grange Foundation Meeting — Student Loan Apps Due

Feb. Michigan State Grange Executive Committee Meeting — 5 p.m. Grange Acres, Haslett.

Feb. State Grange Masters Conference — Burns Grange #160 hosting

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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Chaplain

New Beginning

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Well the New Year is upon us and we were lucky to have had a white Christmas this year and plenty of ice to go with it. I am one of the lucky ones that lost power on that Sunday but was lucky to get it back Christmas afternoon. Thank God we could go and stay with our daughter Karen who had heat and water, something that we did not have. I know that some of you did not get power back for a week and I pray that all is ok with your homes and your families.

With the New Year we need to look forward to a new beginning in all that we do and say. We need to place Jesus in our lives and live like he would want us to. Sometimes this is very hard to do when people around us are unpleasant. At those times we need to place a smile on our face and greet them with a Good morning or Good afternoon. I know that this is not always easy but it is one way to get peace in our world. And we do need peace in our world.

We are all planning projects for the New Year in our Granges. This year I would like to hear of a new project that you might be doing that helps or works with people who do not have what we have. Let us help those less fortunate than we are in some way. I know that Gratiot Grange no longer gets a family for Christmas but they now collect can goods and paper products and gives them to the local food bank. The food bank numbers are growing weekly with people who need help. Look around you and see if there is something that your Grange can help out with. Maybe even help serve food at a shelter sometime. All counts towards good deeds done by Grangers.

I pray that everyone stays healthy and safe these winter months. I love the snow and the cold crisp air as long as the roads are dry. Remember to check on your neighbors and make sure that they are alright. Our elderly neighbors might not be able to get out to get food or drugs and you might be their only life line and smiling face that they might see for weeks on end.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!



In Memory of Peg Brown

Past Michigan State Grange First Lady, Executive Committee Member, Lady Assistant Steward, Flora, Ceres, Women's Activities Director and National Grange Delegate

August 26, 1934—December 10, 2013

Peg was a lifelong resident of the Colon, Sturgis, and Burr Oak area and a graduate of Colon High School with the class of 1952. On January 30, 1954 she married Robert Brown at the Colon United Methodist Church. Peg was employed by the Kirsch Company, Formed Tubes, the Sturgis Hospital and for over 30 years she was a Avon Representative earning the distinguished Presidents Club award each year of her involvement with Avon.

Peg was a very active and dedicated member of the First United Methodist Church in Sturgis for 50 years. She served as the church's secretary for many years. She was an active member of the Burr Oak Grange since 1958, Pomona Grange, State Grange and National Grange. For the past several years she managed the community tent at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair with her husband Bob. She and Bob had been inducted into the St. Joseph County Grange Fair Hall of Fame.

She is survived by her husband, Robert, two daughters, Lori Leth of Shelbyville, TN, and Sheri (Craig) Marshall of Highland Village, TX. Two sons: James (Teresa) Brown of Sturgis and Steven (Stacy) Brown of Senoia, GA; nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; one sister, Susan (Robert) Foster and One brother; Chuck VanDeventer of Sturgis and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral took place on Saturday December 14th at the First United Methodist Church in Sturgis.

The family suggests those wishing to make a memorial donation to consider the First United Methodist Church, 200 Pleasant Ave., Sturgis, MI 49091 or the Michigan State Grange Foundation c/o Roland Winter, 15150 A Drive North, Marshall, MI 49068.

"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

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2014, I hope that everyone has had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In the Fourth Degree of our order we learn that the winter months were times for reflections and planning. Reflections over the past year, how well we did on our projects and the areas we need improvement on. Planning towards the next year; towards the projects, the volunteering, and the community service that we will do throughout this ensuing year.

One program I encourage you to enter this next year is the Distinguished Grange Award program through National Grange. This is an opportunity to be recognized by the Delegates and Members of the National Grange as having achieved the honor of being a Distinguished Grange. Over the last few years we have had two Granges that have received this honor, Gratiot #1898 and Burns #160. I would like to have a much higher percentage of our Granges represented or recognized at this year's National Grange Convention in Sandusky Ohio, since we are co-hosting.

If during this next year your Grange is thinking about doing the full exemplification of the first four degrees; National Grange has put together a DVD entitled "Instructional Degree Video First through Fourth". This is a how to video when it comes to doing the ritual. I would be delighted to come to one of your meetings and review the video with you and answer any questions you may have about the degree work.

State Grange Convention

During this past convention in Marshall we discussed about the responsibilities of the hosting region. One item that has been brought to my attention that was perhaps not quite clear enough during that discussion is the fact that it is the responsibility of the host region to make the arrangements for the facility chosen by the host region with the State Master's approval. The host region is responsible for any cost incurred for the hosting of the convention, with the exception of the meals; therefore the host region will sign the paperwork for the rental of the facilities. With all of that being said I am looking forward to the upcoming year, and all the possibilities that may present themselves for the Grange to move forward in assisting to make Michigan a better

state for living, vacationing, and for the advancement of our agricultural interests. I look forward to the opportunity to sit and talk with each of you at the State Grange Convention in October in Lawton. And again at the National Grange Convention in November in Sandusky Ohio where we can reminisce of our accomplishments of a great and prosperous 2014 for the Granges of Michigan, the Grangers of Michigan, and for the residents of the Great state of Michigan.

Happy New Year and May God Bless us all.

Please take the opportunity to check out Grange Radio, which is up and running with an **official kickoff date of Jan. 3, 2014.**

Go to www.grangeradio.org

Check it out!



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*

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

What a day we had at the Michigan School for the Deaf Christmas Program for 21 students in the Adopt-a-Child program on December 19th. After a welcome by Mark Bouvy, Business Manager, and a story by Todd Morrison (a former student at the school) and read by Amy Rose, the students were treated with pizza, chips, pop/water and cookies. Then to some excited kids they could open their gifts. It is rewarding to see the excitement in their faces as they do this. We all received their special thank you sign as they left to go back to their classrooms. Thanks to Janet Kelley who I am in contact with at the school for all she does to help me as well as the students. Thanks also to Peggy Johnston for all the "what" questions I ask her concerning this program AND a special thank you to all the Granges and Grangers who help support this by buying gifts for these students making this a special day for them. The Granges involved in this were Gratiot #1898, North Adrian #721, Plymouth/Westland #389, Mosherville #1351, Fredonia #1713, Studley #1174, Oceana Center #1047, Burr Oak #1350, Barnard #689, Burns #160, Rome #293, Kinney #1630, Carlisle #812, Mid Michigan Pomona #61, St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona #4, West Oshtemo #1630, Sturgis #1490. Individual Grangers were the Claudia Libbey family, Judy Bowers, Peggy Johnston, Sharon Popler, Dale Moore, Phil and Luanna Swainston. Please let me know if you want to be added to this list. I hope some of you will come and see this next year.

Thank you to the Grangers who made fleece blankets for the students. Janet told me that the students have special rooms they can go to like the TV rooms, play rooms, game room, etc. And you can see them all wrapped up in the fleeces. There were also some hats, mitten, and gloves that were brought to them. All in all the school is so appreciative of the support and things we do for them. It makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks to the Grangers, I took 516 Box Tops for Education and 827 + 600 points in coupons from Campbell products. Keep saving them.

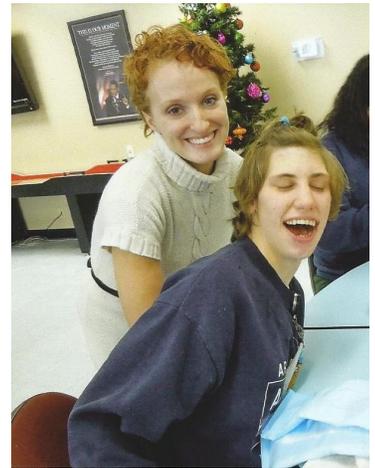
I wish each of you and your families a prosperous and healthy New Year in 2014!!!!



Joseph with new tractor



Todd Morrison & Amy Rose telling story



Jessica's excitement



William all packed up



Alen and Jalil waiting patiently



Issac engulfed in toys

More pictures on page 12

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! I truly wish for all of you to have a healthy, happy 2014. May your Granges grow and be productive in your communities.

With the recent ice storm that went through parts of Michigan, I'm sure many of you were affected. I know several of our members were. Hopefully the worst is over. Power outages have a way of making us appreciate what we often take for granted, lights, stove, heat, water, etc. It is also a time for us to step up and help out our neighbor. Loan them a generator if you have one, fix a warm meal, let them take a shower, do a load of laundry, etc. Take the time this winter to check regularly your elderly neighbors, or those with very young children, they are the most vulnerable.

I feel perhaps now more than ever Granges are needed throughout our country. Our society seems to be less moral, there's more violence than ever before, even amongst our young children, families are falling apart, people are losing their jobs, their homes, their self worth and confidence. The Grange is all about family, community, government, and God. All of these things are vital to having healthy prosperous communities. It is up to all of us to strengthen our Granges through new members and being active in our Subordinate, Pomona, and State Grange.

My Subordinate Grange (Burns # 160) recently celebrated its 140th anniversary. What an accomplishment! We are the only Grange left in Shiawassee county. We may be a small Grange (37 members) however we are an active one. Do I wish we had more members and were even more active, **definitely!** Our projects may be on a smaller scale than a large Grange, however we make an impact in our community and county. With our Words For Thirds Project we touch the lives of 1000 kids yearly. I'm proud to say we also have a number of state officers, even a national officer as our members, not too shabby for a small Grange. WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

Membership— continued from page 10

Education: The Grange is an educational opportunity. We teach leadership skills to our members through practical experience. These skills are transferable to your career and other interests that you have.

Speaking opportunities are abundant and even those who dread public speaking are encouraged to share their opinions within the Grange family in a safe and friendly atmosphere.

You learn how to create action in a meeting by working with your fellow Granges members. Making motions or writing formal resolutions are taught by regular usage to every member interested.

You have the opportunity to hold office or committee positions at your community Grange, your Pomona Grange, or even in your State Grange. Each office has specific duties that aid you in growing personally. As with everything in life, what you put into an opportunity will be reflected in what you get out of it.

Fellowship: The Grange membership is an extended family. As a Grange member you will meet many new friends and you will be treated as family by them.

Many young members act as if they have 6, 10, or more sets of grandparents because of the interest shown in them by the older members. Many other members feel that they have many children and grandchildren because of the relationships formed in the Grange. Parents often rely on fellow Grange members for emergency help when their family members live outside their community.

Members often come to the rescue of Granges having trouble. A car problem in an unknown town is not a terrible thing when you can call upon a Grange member who lives there for help.

Many Granges are noted for their potlucks and dinners where they share good food and fellowship on a regular basis. For many seniors these meals represent a varied and balanced meal with their extended family.

Fun: There are many opportunities for fun activities in every Grange.

Each Grange meeting has a short Lecturer's program which often features music, educational materials, physical or mental games, and inspirational items. Members are encouraged to share their talents during these programs.

Some Granges have regular events, such as bowling, softball, darts, or camp outs. Sharing your interests with your fellow members are a great way of starting a new fun activity.

Many Granges have regular events such as get-togethers, holiday celebrations, and parties for the benefit of their members and the community. They may also have activities such as ritualistic teams or other Grange related activities that bring the members together in fun and fellowship.

Many Granges also offer contests such as art, photography, or talent for the enjoyment of their members. These contests also further develop the members skill in these areas.

Continued on page 8

NEW ONLINE GRANGE RADIO UNVEILED....grangeradio.org

On Sunday, November 10 at the 147th National Grange Convention Welcome Reception the new and exciting project known as Grange Radio was premiered. Grange Radio is an online radio station that celebrates and invests in the community through innovative and compelling radio programming by targeting a changing dynamic Grange population. At the same time Grange Radio will cater to the values of the National Grange community and appeal to non-member interest while growing Grange membership through loyal listenership.

The programming for the radio will include music from all different genres, though right now it is primarily playing classic rock and country music 24 hours a day. Mixed in interesting Grange and agriculture related topics entertaining as well. The aim is to present a accurately portrays the Grange as an organiza-

will also find Grange Radio entertaining and Some of the featured interviews are stories stories about how or why you joined the what makes your Grange special and even what job. Interviews will take place throughout the

We in the communication fellows depart-Grange radio and have put a lot of thought and online radio station that is appealing to all age time, we have outlined potential programming that will hold true to the slogan "American Values. Hometown Roots."

As we build the foundation for Grange radio, we hope to add more regular content. We would like to include things like a legislative update, lecturers and family living updates, segments about the youth and juniors, and even cooking shows. These segments, shows, and mixed musical genres will follow a weekly schedule. We hope to hear from fellow members about what they would like to hear on Grange radio as well!!!



with the music will be segments about in-that are not only important to know but product that is entertaining to Grangers tion. People who aren't Grange members informative as well.

about what makes your hometown great, Grange, information about your Grange or you do outside the Grange as a hobby or week.

ment are very proud and excited about effort into developing a template for an groups and demographics. Yet at the same

Anyone interested in more information on Grange Radio, contact Amanda Leigh Brozana, National Grange Communications Director, by phone at 570-624-9223 or email at abrozana@nationalgrange.org.

Grange Radio is seeking contributions to help support the program. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to the station using PayPal and be recognized as a supporter of the station. If you would like to record your own message to be aired on the radio, you can choose to save the digital file and email it to grangeradio@gmail.com or you can call and leave the recording as a voicemail at 570-624-9223. Include in the email or message your contact information so they can get in touch with you if there is any problem or question with the recording.

Give it a try and enjoy....grangeradio.org

MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS BY EMAIL

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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!

New Year's Resolutions

By Iram Khan

Just think, think, think,

Of things you can do,

To make yourself better.

Before the year's through

Resolutions can be tough,

Or simple as can be.

Making resolutions,

Are great for you and me!

So what will you promise,

To help yourself my dear?

Through 2014,

Have a Happy New Year!

Community Service

Make Plans

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

As we start the new year, it is time for Granges to make plans for community service projects. The community service chairman should select a committee to help plan and take action. All Grange members need to get involved to make the project a success.

At the state session this year, Helen and I had the community service books on display so Grangers could get ideas for projects. Plus there was a display board that listed projects done by Granges in Michigan.

If you are having trouble finding a project, contact a local organization to see if you can partner with them on a project they are planning. Studley Grange operates a food stand for the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland during a fall weekend activity they have each year. We made arrangements with the Chippewa Nature Center about the purchase of the food and gave the profit back to them. We had the Bullock Creek High School Robotics Team help serve the food. These kids can count this volunteer time towards the community service hours needed with the group plus get part of the profits to help with their team fee. It's a win-win situation!

Tricia and I would like to know what projects work well in your area. No matter how large or small your Grange membership is, you can always find a project to accommodate the area where you live. If your Grange has projects that you would like to share with other Granges in the state, please contact us and we will put them in the Grange news.

*Have a safe, warm winter.
 Tricia and Helen*

FOUNDATION

Separate Entity

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

During the recent Annual Convention, there were a number of questions about the Foundation and its relationship with the Michigan State Grange. Since there are probably more of those questions out there, it seems appropriate to spend a little time here, to explain the Foundation's role within the Michigan Grange community. The Foundation is actually a separate entity, which is incorporated independent of the State Grange. This allows it to be incorporated differently, which is important to its function and which provides several benefits.

The Foundation is incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization, which means that it successfully maintains classification as a charitable organization. This is different that the Michigan State Grange, as the State Grange is incorporated as an agricultural organization, due to its role in legislative action and rural advocacy. This limits the activities that the Foundation can support, as any money spent by the Foundation must be within its established charter. This requires that activities must be charitable, educational, or in support of health care, as these are the specific items listed in our incorporation papers. However, within those

boundaries, the Board can approve to use money donated to the Foundation, as appropriate. Despite the restrictions that our incorporation place on how Foundation money must be used,

there are also a couple of key benefits. First, donations made to the Foundation are tax-deductible for our donors. This is not the case with similar donations made to the Michigan State Grange, and therefore allows for members to support specific types of Grange activities, while still getting the benefit of a tax deduction. Second, the charitable nature of the Foundation allows it to be supported by a number of other foundations. This includes many of the employer-sponsored donation matching programs that may be available to Grange members and others looking to support Grange activities. Where this kind of match program would not otherwise be allowed to support a Grange-sponsored activity, the Foundation provides an avenue for their funds. All in all, despite the restrictions that exist for the use of Foundation funds, the difference and separation in incorporation creates great benefit for its programs.

Although separate from the Michigan State Grange, there are still connections that exist between to two organizations. The Foundation By-Laws indicate that the Board will include the sitting State Master, with additional Board members elected by the delegate body of the Michigan State Grange Annual Convention. This ensures that the State Grange has oversight of the selection of the Foundation Board. The Board then acts independent of the Grange, making its decisions as a separate body. Once elected, the Board is charged with providing support to State Grange programs, where allowed by its incorporation requirements and By-Laws. This does not mean that all requests are granted, as either fund availability or conflict with our charter may prevent that. Every consideration is given to these requests, however.

Hopefully, this answers some questions that may be in the minds of our members, regarding the Foundation. If any questions remain, however, please feel free to contact any member of the Foundation Board, and we will be happy to get you whatever answers that you may need. As always, we appreciate the donations and support of our membership, and look forward to spending the next year, developing positive impact on our communities and state.

Eric Bishop, Vice Chairman

MSG FOUNDATION,
Kathryn Strouse, Sec/Treas.
P.O. Box 84
North Star, MI 48862

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!

Happy New Year!!!

It is always exciting to start a new year; all new plans and promises, it's like a fresh start!! And that also applies to the Grange!! Another year to grow membership, to expand community service with new ideas and well, just to get busy promoting the Grange!

A great way is to keep those Junior members busy with activities! When they are having fun, they will draw in their friends to join them and you may even gain new members!!

I know winter is cold, but winter can also be lots of fun for the Juniors!! Here are a few activities that kids will love!

- Organize a sledding party
- Make snow angels if fresh snow
- Build a snowman and/or a family of snow people
- Make snow sculptures, fill a spray bottle with water and food coloring to decorate them with
- Build a fort and have safe snowball fights
- If you are creative and have some engineering skills, build an igloo!
- Take them snow shoeing
- Skiing and Ice skating are also fun activities

But be sure to play safe and keep warm! Have hot chocolate and cookies on hand to finish up! Could even have some hot soup to warm the little ones up with!

And if the weather isn't cooperating, stay in and.....

- Watch a movie with popcorn and snacks
- Have a talent show, those are always fun and entertaining
- Have a Game day where you play board games

There are numerous activities that you can do inside, remember Pinterest has lots of crafts to do with the Juniors.



Membership— continued from page 5

2. Community: “The Grange Provides the Opportunity, The People Provide the Leadership, The Community Reaps the Benefit”

There are two major benefits to the community. They are through community service and legislative action. Each allow a member to better the place they live by working with like-minded people.

Community service has two parts, education and service projects. Legislative action takes place locally, statewide, and nationally.

Education Community Service: Service to the Community is often done through education projects.

Granges can hold education opportunities for their communities. The type of event can be varied but will give important knowledge to people locally.

Home activities such as food preservation, and sewing or handicrafts are traditional education projects.

Other opportunities may include car care, driver safety courses for seniors, first aid/CPR, nutrition for diabetics, or child care.

Community Service Projects: The projects that Granges take on range from small one day projects to massive multi-organizational endeavors. Community Granges perform a wide-variety of different types of community service. If you can imagine it, there is probably a Grange doing it somewhere in the nation. Granges fill the needs in their community.

Legislative Action: The Grange is a non-partisan organization. This means that while we do not take a position on candidates for office, we do take positions on the issues. As a grass-roots organization, Grange policy is set by the local members and works its way up to the higher levels.

The Grange reacts to actions taken by city councils, state legislative bodies, and Congress. In addition, the Grange also proposes needed changes to these elected bodies for their consideration.

The Grange also works on initiatives and referendums in states that use these grassroots legislative tools.

Another year has escaped us. I'm sure we all had things we wanted to do and some didn't get done. We're human. But we keep going and promise to do better the next year. I feel this year will be the one where we'll all be happy with all our efforts. On that note I'd like to wish every one of you hard working Grangers

a very, very

“PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR AND ALL THE BEST OF “2014” TO YOU”!!!!!!

“The Distinguished Grange Program.”

This is one way that the National Grange can honor a Subordinate Grange for all the work they do. It really is quite simple. Most of the things that are required are what we do anyway. But starting early in the year can assure you of qualifying. It sure would be nice to have more Granges from Michigan to get honored!! I'll be mailing out the information to for your Grange to look at and get started. You'll be surprised how easy it is.

ALZHEIMER'S HOPE

About 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. That number is expected to almost triple in the next 40 years.

Disrupted sleep can be an early sign. Studies found 145 men and women ages 45 to 75 that although they all had about the same quantity of sleep, those who reported poor quality had higher levels of a specific protein that makes up brain plaques found in Alzheimer's patients. More research is needed, but what is know is that memory loss— especially forgetting recently learned information— is one early symptom. Others are trouble planning, solving problems or completing familiar tasks; confusion with time, place, visual images or spatial relationships; new problems with words, misplacing things more frequently, decreased judgment; withdrawal from work or social activities; changes in mood or personality.

A recent study on different classes of blood pressure drugs suggest they may have protective effects against Alzheimer's, slowing mental decline or even reducing risk overall. The science is preliminary, but it supports the growing body of evidence that suggests keeping your heart healthy—by controlling blood pressure and cholesterol— can benefit your brain as well. Known risk factors for Alzheimer's include age, family history and genetics. Currently there is no cure, but there are medications and lifestyle approaches that may help with memory and behavioral symptoms.

Last year, 15.4 million caregivers provided more than 17.5 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Skyrocketing rates word wide will further burden caregivers.

Tips for care giving: Join a support group, Learn new care giving skills as the disease progresses, know what resources are available. When people offer to help, LET THEM.

Position open

Why do People Join the Grange?

Taken from the National Grange Membership Program

Please take the time to read this.

Needs:

Start by understanding why people sign their name on the dotted line and join organizations. It doesn't matter if you have membership fees or how much your dues are to most people. For a sizable portion of society it isn't a concern if you have an initiation ceremony. What will matter to everyone is if your group fills their needs.

All people have the same basic needs. Abraham Maslow took this idea and created his famous hierarchy of needs. Following is a simplified version of the needs as they relate to the Grange.

There are different levels of personal needs and as each level is filled, the person looks to fill the need of the next level. These levels are set up as a pyramid and to reach the top level, you must have all the lower level needs filled.

Level 1: the basic or first level is the physical need for food, shelter and clothing. Every human must fill this basic need for survival.

We are very fortunate that in America these are relatively each to fill.

Level 2: The second level is the need for security. People want to feel safe, have an income, protect themselves for the future.

Most people get a job, have a career, and start families to provide for this level. Yet because of life-style choices, many people live paycheck to paycheck and a layoff or job change can impact them at this level.

Historically, the Grange has often provided material benefits that filled this need and as a result has experienced great growth at those times. Co-ops that provided supplies or marketed members crops, insurance companies that protected Grange members, and Credit Unions that give financial opportunities are just a few of the ways that the Grange helps to fill the need for security.

Look to current benefits as tools to both recruit and retain Grange members. Be alert for new benefits that will benefit both the membership and the Grange.

If level 2 is threatened, the member may cease participating or drop out unless the Grange can offer reassurance and assistance to them during their time of stress.

Level 3: The third level is the need to be social. Belonging to a group that is accepting of you is important to everyone. Being a part of a group is critical to be a healthy lifestyle.

This level is where many people will join the Grange. While some may use their career as their primary social outlet, most people desire to have a "life" outside their job. If the Grange can meet their needs at this point, they are far more likely to join.

Does the Grange welcome new people and make them feel at home? Do members go out of their way to explain the Grange and to let new members know that they are now part of the "family"? Is fun and fellowship a major part of the Grange?

How the Grange fills the need to be social is crucial to long-term success.

Level 4: the fourth level is the need for approval. People need recognition, a sense of achievement or of status. Gaining the respect of your peers for your achievements or effort is significant for most people. The knowledge that you are making a valuable contribution to an individual, the Grange, or the community makes life much more special.

People often join or continue their membership because they see this need being filled by the Grange. They may also develop into the leaders of the group at this level as they search for approval.

Do your members thank those who help get the job done? Are the officers congratulated on jobs well done? Each Granger should remember to thank publicly those who give of their time and efforts to build the organization. However, it is often inadvisable to give recognition to those not contributing as then respect for the achievement is downgraded to the lowest level given.

Level 5: The fifth level is the need to be beneficent. This is where people have developed the confidence to be selfless in their actions. They don't need rewards or recognition in order to give purpose to their lives as they believe that their actions reflect their life.

They often feel a debt to others that they can not repay directly and choose to add value to the Grange in order to repay that debt.

These people often develop into the Grange's great leaders. Having achieved success in their own lives, they seek to share their experiences with others. They often give far more than anyone ever expects to ensure the success of the organization. They are normally mentors of other members.

Conclusion: The more needs your Grange can fill, the more reasons a person has to become a member.

If your Grange is failing to fill the different needs of your members, it is time to evaluate your programs and activities.

Why do People Join the Grange?

Purpose:

People often join the Grange for specific purposes. While some will join just because they are asked, most will want to know, "What's in it for me?"

These purposes are part of their needs and will vary depending upon interests. The following interests are grouped in two areas, (1) Family and (2) Community.

1. Family:

The family group includes all the reasons that a person and their family may benefit from Grange membership.

Material Benefits: the National Grange offers several benefits, ranging from cancer and long-term care insurance coverage's to internet access and long-distance telephone savings.

Many State Granges offer a wide variety of benefit packages ranging from insurance to credit unions to purchasing groups.

Some Pomona or Community Granges offer important benefits to their members in the form of discounts on products and services.

The Grange offers many personal benefits to its members. They include, but are not limited to the following:

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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

Happy New Year everyone! Wow where did 2013 go!!! Well I am sure everyone is starting to think about Spring after the weather we have been having already this winter. I know most everyone had received some sort of bad winter weather during the months of November and December. Some of that weather was very bad and don't wish it on anyone like the ice storms around Christmas up in the Flint area. But, for those of us that were lucky and had snow... it is an important part of life in the Midwest. I came across an article in my farm paper "The Farmer's Exchange" and I want to share with you some of it which was written by Jeff Burbrink who is an Elkhart County Extension educator.

When you think of snow, what do you think of? Beautiful white flakes drifting through the sky? Tree branches sprinkled with white, contrasting with their winter dull black or grey? Slushy, dirty, hazardous driving conditions? Shovels, snow blowers and blades? Sleds, mittens, snow angels and snow forts?



Snow means different things to different people, at different times in their lives. For farmers and others who appreciate the outdoors, snowfall can be thought of as beneficial. Snow can serve as a thermal insulator, protecting crops like alfalfa and wheat from subfreezing weather. Some agricultural areas depend on an accumulation of snow during winter that will melt gradually in spring, providing water for crop growth and livestock water.

Yes, snow is a part of everyday life during winter in our community. And don't we often wish we didn't have to live with it, we couldn't live without it.

So while you sit and look at the snow float from the sky, think about what you might want to plant in your gardens or yards this coming spring. Now is a great time to be looking through the seed catalogs and plant books for those special favorites you might want to plant and then share the crops with friends and neighbors. I would still like to have Granges plant Community Gardens and reap the rewards of working together both young and old with all aspects of this Garden. The young could do the manual labor with the watchful eye of the older members who might not be able to do all the hard work but know what needs to be done or knows how to get it done from years of experience. Or the older members could use the harvested crops to can or preserve into items that could be sold at a Grange Sale! The ideas and possibilities are endless! I want to hear about your Gardens and where you plan to put it. It doesn't have to be at your Grange Hall if you don't have one or do not have any extra land to plant in. It could be at a member's house or you could do container plantings. That is still a Community Garden.

Well that is all for now. The only other comment I have is please contact your legislators about the importance of a new Farm Bill! They have to understand that no Farm Bill will not just affect the Ag Industry, but it will hurt all of America. Let's hope they can get something mapped out soon!

The National Grange has recently joined forces with other agricultural groups around the country in a coalition effort called "10,000 Friends of Rural America." It's pretty simple. We are hoping to get a minimum of 10,000 people to sign the petition as a way of showing legislators, businesses, etc. that Rural America does matter and that they need to invest some time and money in Rural America's future. All you need to do is go to http://10000friends.ruralamerica.org/national_grange/, fill out the form and click "Submit." It shouldn't take you more than 5 minutes. Please take the time to do this and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Together, we're going to highlight Rural America and the incredible contributions they make to our great nation. Thank you for your support.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

New Logos

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

Rebranding of Grange Youth

The Grange Youth has undergone rebranding. We are no longer using the keys logo. We have now made available by CD or download (or email request) the files of the new Youth logos shown below. Requests for CD's should be made to Amanda Leigh Brozana at abrozana@nationalgrange.org.



More Michigan School for the Deaf Christmas Party Pictures!!!!



Joshua with Andrea Peck & sister Saline



Hailey, just waiting



Princess enjoying lunch



Phil & Luanna with Shaylynn



Judy with Treveon



Zionwaiting!



***Judy, Peggy, Sharon, Dale, Chris
With Jason and Antonio***



***Zy'Quintre...hurry up-
let me open the gifts!***



***Sharon & Arnette
Serving up that pizza!***

**What a special day with some very special friends!
If you did not sponsor a child this year....consider it next year!
If you did not attend the party...plan to do it next year!**