



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXI NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MARCH-APRIL, 2015



## April is Grange Month "Celebrate Grange"



**Plan an open house, special program, window displays, special news articles, present membership awards, etc. Just be sure to make your Grange known!**



### Easter Prayer

By: Jean Hassing, Past MSG Chaplain

I stepped into the garden and,  
I felt His presence there.  
In my heart I felt a warmth;  
In my mind I formed a prayer.

"Thank you, dear God, for harvests and grain;  
For grassy green carpets; for sunshine and rain.  
For all of this earth Thou hast give, so free.

For blue sky and sun,  
For land and for sea, Bur most of all, Father,  
Our thanks for thy Son,  
Who for our sins on a cruel cross was hung.  
For Jesus did die

That we might be free,  
That sins could be washed  
From you and from me.  
And greatest of wonders—  
The tomb could not hold  
That dear Son of God  
In its dampness and cold.

It's thrilling, yet humbling,  
To know He did take  
The fear and the sting  
Out of death for our sake.  
And through God's great love  
For us everyday  
He still walks beside us  
Through all our life's way!



**Michigan State University  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Week  
March 7-14, 2015**

Page 3	Page 4	Page 5	Page 6	Page 8	Page 11
<i>Assistance in the Rover Project</i>	<i>It's a Noisy Planet</i>	<i>New Family Activities Director</i>	<i>Cinnamon and Honey</i>	<i>Is it Spring Yet?</i>	<i>Current Legislative Issues</i>



# Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

Periodical postage paid at Durand, MI

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

Inquiries contact: Michigan State Grange  
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

**Editor & Adv. Manager:**  
Christopher D. Johnston

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

**March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**March 17 St. Patrick's Day**

**March 20 First Day of Spring**

**March 29 Palm Sunday**

**April Grange Month**

**April 5 Easter**

Whole page \$150.00

1/2 page \$90.00

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

The above rates include advertising space for two months.

*Prices effective June, 1997. Payable in advance, check should be made to Michigan State Grange. Please include camera-ready copy. Copy to be received no later than the 15th of the month preceding date of insertion. Advertisements for alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Michigan State Grange reserves the right to refuse copy. Discounts available on multiple insertions.*

6 issues per year, bi-monthly  
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429  
Tel: 989-288-4546  
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

## Chaplain

## Spring

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

I know that we all are tired of this cold weather but we have to remember that Spring is coming. So this time I want us to enjoy these poems about spring. Remember it is just around the corner.

### Spring

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



### April Fools

Spring. A great yellow stain.  
Forsythias burst and daffodils explode.  
Swallows hurry back from Mexico and are bitten by the laughing snows of April.

Spring, the smile of a ninety-year old man who can't hear a thing you say yet keeps talking to you nonetheless.

Spring and dreams have that in common

### The first day of Spring

I wonder if the sap is stirring yet,  
If wintry birds are dreaming of a mate,  
If frozen snowdrops feel as yet the sun  
And crocus fires are kindling one by one:  
Sing, robin, sing;  
I still am sore in doubt concerning Spring.

I wonder if the springtide of this year  
Will bring another Spring both lost and dear;  
If heart and spirit will find out their Spring,  
Or if the world alone will bud and sing:  
Sing, hope, to me;  
Sweet notes, my hope, soft notes for memory.

The sap will surely quicken soon or late,  
The tardiest bird will twitter to a mate;  
So Spring must dawn again with warmth and bloom,  
Or in this world, or in the world to come:  
Sing, voice of Spring,  
Till I too blossom and rejoice and sing. that in common.

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

### Legislative Action at Home

Recently I received a call from National Grange Legislative Director Burton Eller, asking for the assistance of the Michigan State Grange. In association with the DCI Group (who provides the funding for the DC Fellows at the National Grange Conventions), and the Ohio State Grange; we will be working to inform the residents of a few counties around the Michigan/Ohio border in regards to the Rover Project. The Rover Project is attempting to bring a natural gas pipeline from West Virginia through Pennsylvania and Ohio into Michigan to connect with another existing pipeline. This will bring natural gas to the Midwest. We look forward to working with the DCI Group and the Ohio State Grange on this endeavor.

### Great Lakes Grange Leadership Conference

In just a few short weeks Michigan will be hosting the GLGLC in southwest Michigan. I have heard of some of the plans that are coming together for this fun filled weekend of education and fellowship. There will surely be something you learn that you can take back to your own Grange for a program. Information and registration forms can be found on the State Grange Website.

### Grange Month

April is Grange month!! This is the time of the year when we get to celebrate this wonderful organization that has brought us all together. Think back over the years of being a Grange member and all the people that you have met that you would not have had it not been for the Grange. We get to invite the community into our halls and meetings and tell them of all the good times, the memories we have had as members of the Grange, and showcase all the things we do for our communities throughout the year.

New this year in time for Grange Month is a recognition award specially designed for veterans who have served in the Vietnam conflict. This award is available through National Grange and is obtainable by contacting them at [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org) or by calling 1-

888-4GRANGE. If you are not able to contact them and would like to access these awards, please let me know and I will work to get those for you. Grange Month is an excellent opportunity to thank the men and women of the armed services for all they do, both past and present.

### State Grange Fundraiser

The members of the Executive Committee have brought forth the idea of Granges holding events they normally have, with the State Grange Officers and members working the event and the State Grange receiving a part of or all of the proceeds. We are still looking for invitations while also planning to assist in an event in May or July. We have also received a donation from a Grange that does not have any dates left for the State Grange to assist with.

Until next time.....



**Welcome to the Michigan State Grange  
 Officer/Department Director Family**

**Mary Beth Bower  
 Family Activities Director  
 708 Ralston Road, Colon, MI 49040  
 Tel: 269-432-3921  
 E-mail: mbbpdk@aol.com**

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

### Your Sense of Pitch

Have you ever wondered how a musician can pick out a single wrong note in a complex piece of music? Has anyone told you that you are tone-deaf or have a tin ear? These all relate to a sense of pitch—roughly speaking, the highness or lowness of a sound. It's what distinguishes a soprano from a bass singer and gives each piano key a distinct identity.

Our ability to distinguish pitch is not fully understood, but we do know that it involves some processing by the brain after a sound is perceived. This means tone deafness is not necessarily linked to any hearing disorder. An individual with perfect hearing may still have trouble distinguishing pitch because of how the brain interprets the sounds.

Tone deafness appears to stem from nature, not nurture.

### Do you Need a Hearing Test

If you are 18 to 64 years old, the following questions will help you determine if you need to have your hearing evaluated by a health professional. Answer YES or NO.

1. Does a hearing problem cause you to feel embarrassed when you meet new people?  
Yes  No
2. Does a hearing problem cause you to feel frustrated when talking to members of your family?  
Yes  No
3. Do you have difficulty hearing or understanding co-workers, clients, or customers?  
Yes  No
4. Do you feel slowed down by a hearing problem?  
Yes  No
5. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when visiting friends, relatives, or neighbors?  
Yes  No
6. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty

in the movies or in the theater?

Yes  No

7. Does a hearing problem cause you to have arguments with family members?

Yes  No

8. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when listening to TV or radio?

Yes  No

9. Do you feel that any difficulty with your hearing limits or hampers your personal or social life?

Yes  No

10. Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when in a restaurant with relatives or friends?

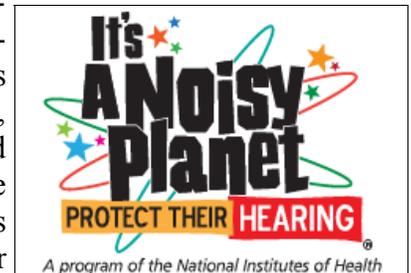
Yes  No

If you answered "yes" to three or more of these questions, you might want to see an audiologist for a hearing evaluation.

### What is Noise Induced Hearing Loss?

Every day, we experience sound in our environment, such as the sounds from television and radio, household appliances, and traffic. Normally, these sounds are at safe levels that don't damage our hearing. But sounds can be harmful when they are too loud, even for a brief time, or when they are both loud and long-lasting. These sounds can damage sensitive structures in the inner ear and cause noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL).

NIHL can be immediate or it can take a long time to be noticeable. It can be temporary or permanent, and it can affect one ear or both ears. Even if you can't tell that you are damaging your hearing, you could have trouble hearing in the future, such as not being able to understand other people when they talk, especially on the phone or in a noisy room. Regardless of how it might affect you, one thing is certain: noise-induced hearing loss is something you can prevent.



By Dale Moore, Committee Member

**Think Outside the Plate**

The foods you eat are just one factor in preventing depression and bringing about positive emotions. What happens before and after you pick up your fork counts too.

**Prepare to be Happy**

Turn cooking into a joy rather than a chore by making it a family activity. It's even better when men join in. Marital happiness is increased when fathers participate in all family responsibilities, including cooking, and this allows the children to see meal preparation as a family activity, not as "mother's job."

**Eat Together**

It really is true: Dining as a family is good for your health. Research found that adolescents who often ate meals with their family were less likely to engage in risky behaviors. It was found that those that ate meals together at least six or seven times a week would spend valuable time talking with each other about anything and everything.

**Take a Walk**

Once dinner is over and dishes are cleaned up, consider a family walk. Take a stroll either before or after the evening meal. Regular walks have been shown to boost mood and even lift mild depression and anxiety.

**Add More Splashes of Color**

Increasing your intake of fruits and vegetables, including folate-rich greens, is associated with a greater sense of contentment. "Try having spinach, kale and asparagus faithfully every day, either as a salad or as part of your main dish. You'll also want to go red, yellow, orange, even blue (as in blueberries). If you're starting to feel overwhelmed, know there are easy ways to work it all in. "Include one fruit for breakfast each day, sliced in your cereal, blended into a smoothie or as a whole piece in the car on the way to your job. At dinner, double or triple up on veggies— that little serving of green beans on the side of your plate isn't enough.

**Feed Your Brain Good Fats**

Start with heart-healthy anti-inflammatory olive oil. You can cook with it, but also consider enjoying its flavor as an ingredient. "Make your own vinaigrette with olive oil, vinegar and herbs—and offer it with bread instead of butter." Choose omega-3-rich

fish too. Fatty cold-water ones, such as salmon, tuna and herring, are great sources, but if you don't like or don't eat fish, add walnuts, flaxseeds and hemp seeds. Take an omega-3 supplement is another option.

**Drink to your Health**

A key element of the Mediterranean diet is red wine in moderation, and plenty of water every day.

*(article taken from Family Circle magazine)*

**Baking with Pumpkin — Family Activities contest**

Here's a recipe to try:

**Pumpkin Drop Cookies**

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 c. butter or oleo, softened | 1 c. quick cooking oats       |
| 1 c. sugar                    | 1 tsp. gr. Cinnamon           |
| 1 c. brown sugar              | 1 tsp. baking soda            |
| 1 egg                         | 1/2 tsp. salt                 |
| 1 tsp. vanilla extract        | 1 c. cooked or canned pumpkin |
| 2 c. all purpose flour        | 1 c. (6oz.) choc. Chips       |

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Add to creamed mixture alternating w/pumpkin. Stir in choc. Chips. Drop by tablespoonful onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees 9-12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack. Yield 4 dozen.

Necklace Pendant



**Some Ideas for Polymer Clay Entries**

Subordinate members — jewelry  
Juniors — anything



Earrings



**A Little Trivia**

- ◆ How did pound cake get its name?  
A: From the one-pound quantities of the key ingredients (sugar, butter, eggs, and flour) in the original recipe.
- ◆ What breakfast food gets its name from the German word for "stirrup"?  
A: The Bagel.
- ◆ Why was the Animal Crackers box designed with a string handle?  
A: The animal-shaped cookie treats were introduced in 1902 as a Christmas novelty--and packaged so they could be hung from Christmas trees.

Coming up very soon is the **Great Lakes Grange Leadership Conference**. The forms have been sent to each Grange. If you are interested in coming, send in your form and payment to me before the end of March. This lets us know how many are coming and how many rooms we'll need.

THANK YOU

### THE BENEFITS OF ADDING CINNAMON OR CHILI POWDER, OR PEPPERMINT TO HOT CHOCOLATE.

A recent study has found that drinking 2 cups of cocoa a day for 30 days significantly improved memory in older adults. Teams have found cocoa drinking boosted blood flow to the brain, particularly in those whose flow was impaired. Add cinnamon to your drink and it can moderate blood pressure. By adding chili powder it can calm arthritis, help ease headaches, and helps with insulin control in those with diabetes. By adding peppermint it has helped in with digestion.



#### CINNAMON AND HONEY

It is found that a mix of honey and cinnamon cures most diseases. Honey is produced in most of the countries of the world. Honey can be used without side effects which is plus. Today's science says that even though honey is sweet, when it is taken in the right dosage as a medicine, it does not harm even diabetic patients.



**ARTHRITIS:** On cup of hot water with 2 Tablespoons of honey and 1 small tsp. Cinnamon can benefit patients with arthritis. Researchers found that within a week (out of the 200 people so treated) practically 73 patients were totally relieved of pain— and within a month most all the patients who could not walk or move around because of arthritis could walk without pain.

**BLADDER INFECTIONS:** Take 2 tablespoons of cinnamon and 1 teaspoon of honey in a glass of lukewarm water and drink. It destroys the germs in the bladder!

**COLDS:** Those suffering from the common or severe cold should take one Tablespoon lukewarm honey with 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon daily for 3 day. This will cure most chronic cough, cold and clear the sinuses. Plus it's very good!

**WEIGHT LOSS:** Daily in the morning one half hour before breakfast and on an empty stomach, and at night before sleeping, drink honey and cinnamon boiled in one cup of water. When taken regularly, it reduces the weight of even the most obese person. Also, drinking this mixture regularly does not allow the fat to accumulate in the body even though the person may eat a high calorie diet.

**FATIGUE:** Studies have shown that the sugar content of honey is more helpful rather than being detrimental to the strength of the body. Senior citizens who take honey and cinnamon in equal part are more alert and flexible. Taking a half tablespoon of honey in a glass of water and sprinkled with cinnamon, even when the vitality of the body starts to decrease, when taken daily after brushing and in the afternoon at about 3:00 P. M. the vitality of the body increases within a week.

These are just a few interesting facts on honey and cinnamon that were found on the internet.

AND MAYBE THEY'LL HELP YOU ?!

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

Connie Johnston, Director 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414  
 Tel: 989-634-9350 E-mail ckream27@yahoo.com

Hopefully spring will have arrived by the time you are reading this Michigan Grange News. I'm sure it has been a LONG winter for everyone!

Helen and I would like to encourage Granges to nominate a person in their community for the Dedicated Worker Award and a Grange member for The VIP – Very Important Patron Award. Both of these awards has importance to the Granges presenting the award.

The purpose of the Dedicated Worker Award is to honor someone who has made a difference in the community. Giving public recognition to those who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done. Though this award will no longer be judged on the state level, we strongly encourage Granges to honor someone in their community. We encourage Granges to submit their award winner for others to view at the Michigan State Grange session.

The purpose of The VIP – Very Important Patron Award is for Granges to nominate a member who has made an outstanding contribution to their Grange in the past year. Only one entry from your Grange may be submitted to the State Grange per year. Submit a biography and a summary of the contributions your VIP has made to your Grange. If possible, also submit a photograph of your VIP. Your submission should be sent to the Community Service Director by September 10th. This will be judged and an award presented at the Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange.

We hope Granges are busy planning and getting projects for the Community Service Program. If you have new projects and would like to share them with other Granges, please send them to me. I will gladly put them in a future article.



The date has been set, so mark your calendars for this year's **Summer Junior & Youth/Young Adult Camp! July 31st – August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Oceana Center Grange in Hart, Michigan.** Now that a location and date are done, I will be looking into things to do and what kind of fun we all can have!! Although we have been having a fairly good attendance, this year I would love to have a GREAT attendance!! The hard work we do now benefits us in years to come when these Juniors and Youth start taking over our positions in the Grange. Let's show them we care by doing what we can to get them there!



I know many are just waiting for that Robin to show up and indicate that spring is on its way, but that good ole groundhog says we still have a ways to go. So might as well have some fun with what is left of the winter season. Get those kids outside when the temperature is above freezing, bundled up warmly first, and have some fun sledding, building forts and/or snow-people, or making snow angels. Don't forget about skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling if you have the equipment. Don't want to go outside? No problem, being cooped up is a good time to start those contest entries for State Session!!! Although you might have to wait for the weather to get better to find that rock to make a pet out of or items to make your fairy garden; you can get started by making a dream catcher or any other items from the Lecturer or Family Activities Departments. As always, Pinterest is a good place to start for ideas! It is always my go-to place when I need a craft idea or even a recipe for dinner!

**Those who are at war with others are  
 Not at peace with themselves.  
 William Hazlitt**

Remember – Granges that have active members and the help of non-members in their community service projects are getting their name out in the community. This is very positive and cheap advertising for the Grange! Wishing you a happy spring!

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

Is it Spring yet??!! I don't know about you but I have had enough Winter weather already. It is February 19<sup>th</sup> as I sit here writing this and the weather is more than some can take even for Michigan weather. Driving in whiteouts and below average temperatures makes one dream of the warmer spring weather that is to come at least I hope it is coming soon.

With spring weather in mind, one can only be thinking of green grass and warming of the soil! We have a few months yet to before we can start digging in the soil to plant our gardens. We need to plan before starting our vegetable gardens and there is more to it than what are we going to plant in our gardens. We need to think about Sun, Water Supply and Tools that will be needed to work in our gardens.

Most of the summer vegetables we know and love to eat require at least six hours of sunlight per day. That means the garden needs full sun location. Plants feed themselves through photosynthesis and each plant leaf is a food factory. Provided you meet the full sun minimum of six hours, afternoon shade can be beneficial. Shade late in the day offers a good spot to work during hot summer afternoons, and some of your veggies do like a bit of respite from the sun during the hottest part of the day.

Water supply is very important as who wishes to haul water in 90 plus degree weather. It is important to site your garden so that you don't have to haul or carry water. Watering by bucket will not do a large plot of veggies as they need more water then you could possibly carry each day.

Gardening can be a lot like cooking as they both require tools and there are plenty of tools and gadgets out there for sale. Tools that are popular in the garden include: A shovel with a sharp blade on the end of your shovel which of course is critical for easy digging. A pair of pruners are good to have when you are picking your fruit or removing leaves from plants. Pruners account for a clean cut and less likely to cause damage to your healthy plants. A collinear hoe is used for cultivating weeds or slicing them off at the soil line. A collinear hoe is not a digging hoe but it is a hoe that can be used while standing upright and using a sweeping motion to cultivate small weeds. Of course a good wheelbarrow is always as needed tool when gardening. They are very

**Michigan State Grange  
 Executive Committee Request**

**Creative FUNDRAISING**

**Find** a date in the next year to have an additional fundraising event at your Grange

**Utilize** Michigan State Grange officers to help man your event

**Notify** the Michigan State Grange office when the event will be and how many people are needed

**Delegate** tasks to the Michigan State Grange helpers

**Run** the event in the way you normally do

**Advertise** your event in the normal ways

**Invite** lots of people to your event

**Sell** to or **Serve** those that attend your event

**Include** your processes for success that are used in your other local Grange fundraisers

**New** concept to replace Michigan State Grange raffles

**Give** the profit to the Michigan State Grange

This is a new approach developed by the Michigan State Grange Executive Committee to be utilized in 2014/2015. Please help our Michigan State Grange have the funds to provide continued support to the Subordinate Granges so that they may serve local communities.

**Great Lakes Grange Leadership Conference (GLGLC)**

Hosted by Michigan and planned by Sharon Popler, Lecturer  
 You are requested to attend: Put it on your calendars and get your registration in by March 31st.

Great weekend, with lots of fun, fellowship, workshops, more fun, more fellowship and great food.

**Community Service Project:** We will be helping a local school district with a "Friday Pack Program." Please bring peanut butter, tuna, Easy Mac, canned spaghetti, cereal, oatmeal, Carnation instant breakfast, fruit cups or applesauce, granola bars, trail mix, microwave popcorn, pretzels, animal crackers or 100% juices. Anything that can be easily fixed for a child. If you cannot bring items, please feel free to send Sharon a donation to either purchase more items or give to the school. There will also be a white elephant sale...so bring items either wrapped or in a sealed paper bag and your money for bidding!

**Registration form:** See the back page of this issue for the registration form to be filled out and sent to Sharon Popler.

**Let's show her our support!**

useful when weeding and harvesting alike.

So, while you are sitting in your warm house looking out the window day dreaming of the warmer weather yet to come... start planning and have a great garden in 2015!

Position open

**A few more Of the 100 Ways to Recruit New Members.**

- ◆ Look for past members of the Grange and encourage them to come back
- ◆ Give the membership chair one minute at every meeting.
- ◆ Promote on-line membership.
- ◆ Put together guest information packets
- ◆ Service projects that serve a need in the community
- ◆ Invite family members to join.
- ◆ Send letters to people in the news with an invitation to visit a meeting.
- ◆ Print Grange business cards with meeting location and time.
- ◆ Distribute extra copies of magazines that relate to your organization in waiting rooms. (Grange comic books)
- ◆ Hold high-profile meetings
- ◆ Hold wine and cheese receptions for prospective members
- ◆ Have a special guest day.
- ◆ Send members to district membership seminar
- ◆ Make prospective members feel important.
- ◆ Honor outstanding community members with awards

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

When we look back on over 50 years of service to Grange members through the Student Loan Program, we can truly appreciate the mission of personal growth and education that started with the State Grange Youth Department, and transitioned to the Michigan State Grange Foundation more than 30 years ago. It is clear that this program has supported leadership development, among Grange members, and has contributed to the betterment of our organization and society. The Foundation has remained active in supporting the personal

evolution of loan recipients, and has even increased the allocated funds associated with the program, in order to assure their availability to applicants.

Of course, an important part of ensuring the viability of the Loan Program is repayment of loans by recipients, after they've exited their educational endeavors. This has sometimes been a challenge, but the Foundation Board has been making strides in redeveloping relationships with our past recipients, where loan monies are still outstanding. This includes a number of recipients who have been well overdue in providing repayment, creating a challenge in identifying their whereabouts, or those of their co-signers. However, we have seen continued progress, and have been able to make contact with the vast majority of recipients with outstanding, overdue loans. Through our communication with them, we have been able to develop payment plans, and have seen the available funds associated with the Loan Program grow, as payments have been made against a number of those loans. Whether paid by the recipient themselves or by a co-signer, we greatly appreciate the positive manner in which people have responded to our requests for them to meet the obligations that were made, when they applied for these loans. Our discussions with these members have generally been respectful and productive, with few cases in which recipients have attempted to avoid repayment of their loans. Even in the case of this latter group, we continue to attempt to build a positive relationship with these people, despite their efforts to ignore the commitments that they made in the past.

In order to better avoid these types of circumstances in the future, the Foundation Board has developed better communication tools, so that we remain in close contact with students, as they work their way through their educational career and move into the workforce. As a result, it is unlikely that we will see the same challenges encountered in the past, in finding and making contact with past loan recipients.

The Foundation Board greatly appreciates the sense of responsibility and commitment shown by many of our past loan recipients, who have repaid their loans, and allowed for this wonderful program to continue for others. It cannot be a growth engine for the capabilities of our members, without the high standard of integrity shown by those members who've met their past responsibilities back to the Foundation. For that contribution to the success of this great opportunity for our state's Grangers, we say, "Thank you."

## IN MEMORY OF



### **ROBERT E. BROWN PAST MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE MASTER 1996-2002**

Robert passed away at the age of 83 on Feb. 22, 2015. Bob was married to Peg who preceded him in death in Dec. 2013. Bob leaves behind two daughters, Lori Leth of Shelbyville, Tennessee and Sheri (Craig) Marshall of Highland Village, Texas; two sons: James (Teresa) Brown of Sturgis and Steve (Stacy) Brown of Senoia, Georgia. Nine grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. One brother, Charles (Alice) Brown of Thousand Oaks, CA and a sister-in-law, Evelyn Brown of Cadillac, and many nieces and nephews.

Robert served as the Master of the Michigan State Grange (MSG) and in turn was the delegate to the National Grange convention. He also had served as MSG Assistant Steward and on the MSG Executive Committee. He was very active in Burr Oak Grange and the St. Joseph County Pomona Grange. Bob attended the First United Methodist Church in Sturgis. He was involved with the Chamber of Commerce and was named Burr Oak Citizen of the year in 2011.

A service was held at the First United Methodist Church in Sturgis on Wednesday, February 25th. Full military honors were conferred by Captain John J. Kelley Post #1355 VFW and the U.S. Army Honor Guard.

The family suggests those wishing to make a memorial donation in Bob's memory to either the First United Methodist Church, 200 Pleasant Ave., Sturgis, MI 49091; hospice of Sturgis, P.O. Box 126, Sturgis, MI 49091 or the Michigan State Grange Foundation P.O. Box 84, North Star, MI 48862. Notes or messages can be sent to his family at 33049 Silver Creek Road, Burr Oak, MI 49030.

## WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS



### **LEWIS HODGE PAST MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE GATEKEEPER 1980-1988**

Lewis passed away on Jan. 21, 2015 at the age of 98. He was born in Antrim township on March 11, 1916. He was married to Audrey, who preceded him in death Aug. 2012.

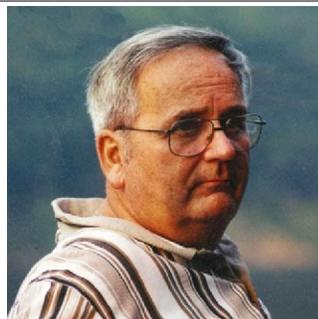
Lewis was a farmer and a 70 year member of Burns

Grange #160. He had served in many offices at Burns Grange as well as Mid Michigan Pomona Grange #61. He was charter member of the Camping Patrons for the MSG.

Funeral services for Lewis were held Jan. 24, 2015 at the Watkins Funeral Home, Bancroft.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews and very special friends the Denny Dagen Family.

Memorials are asked to be made to Burns Grange in care of Peggy Johnston, 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429.



### **FRED BLAIR MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1996-2000**

Fred passed away on Jan. 13, 2015 at the age of 74. Fred served Georgetown

Grange, Kinney Grange, Kent-Ottawa Pomona Grange and the Michigan State Grange for many years.

He leaves behind his wife, Nancy, three daughters: Mary (Mike) Sova, Heidi ( Steve) Bosch, and Kathi (Phil) Van Doeselaar and one son: Jim (Angie) Blair. Nine grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, brother Frank Blair and sister Mary Barnett. Sisters-in-law and brothers -in-law, Clara Kime, Wallace (Mary) Reister, Ellen Lieberman, Howard Reister, Sally (Donald) Ponstein, and Kim Reister, several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 16, at Holy Cross Lutheran, Jenison.

Condolences can be sent to Nancy and family at 11310 Prairie, Allendale, MI 49401.

## In Memory Of...



*Robert Brown* Burr Oak #1350  
*Lewis Hodge* Burns #160  
*Mary Leahy* Fredonia #1713  
*Willis Hassett* Pittsfield Union #882  
*Josephine Stutzman* Barnard #689  
*Mary Ann Seidl* Home #129  
*Ray Winn* Burns #160  
*Mary Gobl* West Oshtemo #1630

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

### Legislative

### Current Issues

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

Following are some updates I received recently from the National Grange Legislative Department regarding several issues that have always been of high importance to Michigan Grange members:

#### Medicare Part D

The National Grange joined the Council on Affordable Health Care and over 300 other groups in urging Congress to oppose proposals that weaken Medicare Part D for senior and individuals with disabilities. Health care groups say Part D has set the standard for delivering better service at a lower cost. The Administration has called for a mandatory Part D rebate which could increase beneficiary premiums, restrict access to medicines and jeopardize patient adherence to needed medicines. These would not be rebates to subscribing patients as one might presume; rebates would essentially be taxes paid by drug manufacturers to the Federal government but would not be used to advance new drugs or to lower patient prescription costs.

#### Rural Broadband

Rural Americans are still among the most underserved consumers of high-speed broadband Internet. The National Grange has always supported efforts that foster a competitive marketplace for faster and more reliable Internet expansion across the country. The current debate over Internet regulation known as net neutrality will require continued Grange involvement and scrutiny. This week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)



announced it would move to regulate Internet service like a public utility. Those supporting net neutrality say regulation under Title II of the Communications Act will allow service to be fast, fair, open and prevent paid prioritization Internet “super highways.” Opponents of Title II regulation say these rules were written in the 1930’s for the wired monopoly phone era and will stifle investment and innovation. Congress is now entering the debate and considering legislation which could achieve compromise and mitigate the debate. If all attempts for a compromise fail, it’s likely the major Internet service providers will sue the FCC.

#### FOOD LABELING

The most heated food industry debate these days is about labeling foods which may contain genetically modified ingredients. While interest groups wage war in the media, state legislatures and Congress, products “certified” as containing no GMO’s are making their way to grocery stores and food counters. This is a bow to customer demands according to food companies. Perhaps it’s not a bad idea. The only problem is that most of these products have not been through an official verification process of uniform compliance standards to be classified as “Certified GMO-Free.” On the other hand, the USDA’s “organic” seal is a guarantee that the product has been produced under organic standards which include no genetically engineered ingredients. This lack of a verifiable certification guarantee for GMO-Free labels is sure to be questioned sooner or later.



#### NEW BABY WELCOMED

Shannon Abbott and Jake Pomorski welcomed the birth of son, Jaxson Robert Pomorski on February 26th. He weighed in at 8# 7 oz. and is 20 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to mom and dad, Grandma Michelle Swainston and Great Grandparents, Phil and Luanna Swainston. All are members of Kinney Grange #754, Kent County.



**GREAT LAKES GRANGE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**  
**APRIL 24—26, 2015 AT INDIAN LAKE NAZARENE CAMP — VICKSBURG, MICHIGAN**

Name (S) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph# \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph# \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Attending Children:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Grange Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Leadership Roles/Offices in the Grange: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies / Special needs / Disabilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fees:	Full Weekend:	\$100.	_____
<u>OR</u>	<u>OR</u>		
Prorated Fees for	Registration Fee	\$ 5.00	_____
Part-time Lodging	Friday Night	\$30.00	_____
	Saturday Night	\$30.00	_____
Meals:	Saturday Breakfast	\$ 8.00	_____
	Saturday Lunch	\$ 9.00	_____
	Saturday Dinner	\$10.00	_____
	Sunday Breakfast	\$ 8.00	_____
	Total		_____

Make checks payable to : Sharon Popler 3640 E. Bath Rd. Morrice, Michigan 48857

Registration forms are due by March 31, 2015

Any Questions?? Ph# 989-634-5748 or gma4hugs@hotmail.com

**PLEASE RETURN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION**

**GUEST ROOMS**

Each guest room has two double beds.

Please list below if you plan to share a room with others. Each room can accommodate up to 4 persons if beds are shared.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_