



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVI NO. 1

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2020

2019 MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF CHRISTMAS



BE SURE TO "SAVE" THE PROGRAM BOOK FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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Michigan Grange News

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Jan 1	Happy New Year!
Jan 20	Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day!
Feb 17	President's Day

MAY

2020

BE THE VERY BEST

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Chaplain

Lots of Meaning

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Six Little Stories with Lots of Meaning

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one little boy brought an umbrella. **That is faith!**



2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **That is trust!**



3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set alarms to wake us up. **That is hope!**

4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **That is confidence!**

5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. **That is love!**



6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence, 'I'm not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. **That is attitude!**

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember, good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

In Memory Of



Michigan State Grange Gatekeeper Walter Murphy

September 9, 1937– December 17, 2019

Brother Walt has served as the Gatekeeper for the Michigan State Grange since 2012. He has been a Grange member for several years. He was active in many organizations including the Grange, Masons and other civic groups. Walt along with his

wife Pauline of 58 years were always proud of their five children, fifteen grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Heritage Life Story Funeral Home, Grand Rapids on Friday, December 27, 2019. Memorial Contributions have been requested to the Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan, 60900 Michigan 40, Paw Paw, MI. You can read about Walters life at www.BeltzerLifeStory.com.

A memorial service will be held in Florida for his many friends there and also another one in June in Northern Michigan which has been his home when not in Florida.

Walt was always at the outer gate during the State Grange Convention to take the word and to greet everyone. Many stories took place at that gate, since Walt had a lot of stories to share from his railroad days to his family and the many experiences he had over the years.

Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

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Y2K to 2020

It's hard to believe that just twenty years ago around this time of year, people were clearing the store shelves and packing food away awaiting the coming apocalypse when 1999 came to a close and the computers were gonna crash at 12 midnight December 31. Yet here we are, 20 years later the apocalypse has not yet happened, the world did not come to an end, the computers didn't all crash, and many people still have the same can goods stashed away. While we don't have that particular worry these days, there are still so many other kinds of threats that we should be prepared for. From natural disasters to mankind nastiness, the start of the new year would be a good time to make sure you have the necessary provisions in any event.

National Grange Session 2019

Our trip to National started out on the wrong foot. We hadn't even made it out of the county yet when we had a flat tire on the Grange trailer, thanks to a buddy of mine, we were able to get the tire fixed and back on our way. We drove mostly through the night and arrived at the session on Saturday morning around 11:30 am. The session went off without too many hitches.

We should all be proud of our State Grange Overseer Sharon Popler who did an excellent job presenting the flag of the Great State of Michigan, during the opening of the National Session. She also along with Dale Moore represented Michigan in the Sixth degree.

I would also like to thank Peggy Johnston, Luanna Swainston, Arnette Welsh, Dale Moore, and Sharon Popler for their assistance with the hosting duties. There were many compliments on the hospitality room when it was Michigan's day to take care of.

recognized, Connie for her work on putting together the delegate folders in a short amount of time and I was recognized for transporting and storing the Seventh Degree supplies and equipment.

All the hard work on the trailer was a success. We heard many compliments on the re-designed trailer. It was said that those traveling by car the same route we were on, could see the trailer from quite a distance. One Granger posted a video on her Facebook page as they passed us on the way



to session. We heard the youth were also impressed when they saw the trailer in the parking lot on their way to their tour. Several states even inquired about the

process and cost as they may now look into doing their own state trailer the same as ours.

At the banquet they announced the community service awards. We were pleasantly surprised when Michigan's entry for Teacher of the Year was announced. Vicki Bocek of Durand High School was selected as the National Grange Teacher of the Year. Burns Grange was the nominating Grange and had the honor to present the plaque to Vicki at their Christmas dinner a few weeks ago.



MSD Christmas Party

While I wasn't able to attend, I heard the Christmas Party for the Michigan School for the Deaf Adopt-a-Child program went very well. This is such a great program and there were many smiles that day from the excited students. If you or your Grange is interested in adopting a child, be sure to get with Luanna Swainston our Deaf Awareness Director.

Until the next time....



During each day of session the National Master Betsy Huber recognized members as heroes of the Grange, on Friday Connie and I were

Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
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What a great day we had with the 25 students at the Michigan School for the Deaf Adopt-a-Child program. I think this was the first year that all of the students were there. What excitement it was for them and it showed on their happy faces. After a lunch of pizza, chips, cookies, cupcakes, beverages and candy suckers with the "I Love You" sign on them (thanks Peggy) and a special thanks to those who donated items for the lunch too! Camelle Jeter-Lorello then signed The Night before Christmas for the students and did some familiar songs with the students signing with her and dancing along with Dave Lawer interpreting. The gifts were then opened with much enthusiasm! I would like to thank all of those involved in making this program a success. They were Burns #160, Gratiot #1898, Community #1675, Kinney #754, Carlisle #812, Oceana Center #1047, Barnard #689, Plymouth/Westland #389, North

Adrian #721, Burr Oak #1350, Rome #293, Fredonia #1713, Studley #1174, West Oshtemo #1631, Mosherville #1351, Mid Michigan Pomona #61, St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona 34, Ted, Helen Mudd & Tricia Eidsmoe, Phil & Luanna Swainston, The Libbey Family, Dale Moore-Sharon Popler & Peggy Johnston, Jackie & Marshall Bishop. Twenty-two of these also attended the party! Thanks to Susanne Middlewood at the school for helping me coordinate this successful program. Thanks also for those who contributed to the Teachers Wish List. **Many, many** items that were on the Wish List were brought to the school. It takes Granges and Grangers to make this a success too! A big THANK YOU to everyone!!!

With this year coming to an end I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



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 Barbara Johnston, Co-Director 2028 Robbins Road, Tipton, MI 49287 Tel: 517-431-2546 tnbjohnston@pc.com

Anybody can trip and fall, but older folks are much more at risk of serious injury after taking a tumble. Falls are the leading cause of injury and death for people over 65 and can lead to hip or joint injuries, head trauma, mobility challenges, fear and anxiety.

You need to be proactive if you are concerned about a family member, friend, or your own risk of falling.

FALL PREVENTION TIPS

Home Environment

- ◆ Remove boxes, newspapers, phone cords and electric cords from walkways
- ◆ Move coffee tables, plant stands and magazine racks from high traffic areas
- ◆ Secure loose rugs with double-faced tape — or remove lose rugs from you home
- ◆ Repair loose wooden floorboards, tiles or carpeting right away
- ◆ Store clothing, dishes, food and other necessities within each reach
- ◆ Immediately clean spilled liquids, grease or food
- ◆ Use non-slip mats in tub or shower. Use a bath seat as you can sit while showering.

FOOTWEAR

Consider changing footwear as part of a fall prevention plan. High heels, floppy slippers and shoes with slick soles can make you slip and fall. So can walking in stocking feet. Wear proper fitting, sturdy shoes with non-skid soles. Sensible shoes may also reduce joint pain.

LIGHTING

Keep your home brightly lit to avoid tripping on objects that are hard to see. Also...

- ◆ Place nightlights in your bedroom, bathroom, and hallways
- ◆ Place a lamp within reach of your bed for middle of the night needs
- ◆ Make clear paths to light switches. Trade traditional switches for glow in the dark ones
- ◆ Turn on lights before going up or down stairs
- ◆ Store flashlights in easy to find places in case of power outages.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES

- ◆ Canes or walkers to keep you steady

- ◆ Handrails on both sides of stairways
- ◆ Raised toilet seat or one with armrests
- ◆ Grab bars for tub or shower
- ◆ Non slip treads for bare wood steps



The Scoop of Ice Cream and Your Personality

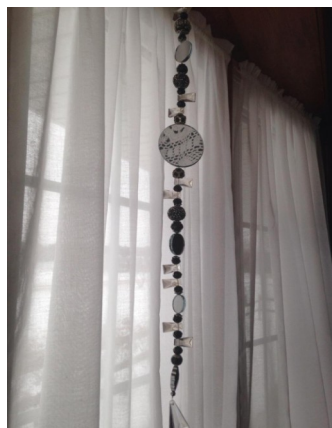
Your favorite ice cream reveals something about your personality. According to research preference for any of these common flavors indicate certain personality traits.

- ⇒ Chocolate—sentimental, nostalgic and traditional. Likes to reminisce about life's good times
- ⇒ Vanilla — Personable, proud and popular, you enjoy life's simple pleasures,
- ⇒ Strawberry—Compassionate, easygoing, and down to earth, willing to openly share feelings
- ⇒ Butter Pecan—Romantic and personable, able to bring out the very best in people.
- ⇒ Neopolitan—Flexible and experimental and able to easily compromise
- ⇒ Coffee—Self Confident and competitive, you possess a take charge personality, a perfectionist.
- ⇒ Mint Chocolate Chip—Bold and high achieving with a good eye for detail; able to “read” people
- ⇒ Chocolate Chip—an optimist, full of life.
- ⇒ Rocky Road—Adventurous, exciting and enjoys challenges.

NEW CONTEST...

Garden Sparklers or Sun Reflectors

Garden Sparklers or Sun Reflectors are made with strong fishing line, assortment of beads and small square or round mirrors, and one tear drop bead for bottom. Thread the beads as you like. Place mirrors back to back with fish line in center, glue together, (you may have to use thin card board between mirrors. Make as long as you wish. May be hung on tree branches or shepherds hook in garden or landscapes for sun to shine and sparkle on.

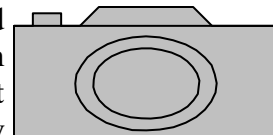


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**Happy
New Year!**

With each new year, it is common to establish goals for the year, sometimes called New Year's resolutions. I am hopeful that more Michigan Grangers will check out the Program booklet included in this newsletter and resolve to enter at least one of the Lecturer's contests to be displayed at the Michigan State Grange session in October. A great time to work on these contests is during the Winter months when weather may be limiting our time to be doing other things.

Typically, there is a great display of photography each year, and I encourage continued participation, including those that have not entered before in this area. The classes remain the same this year, and are intentionally made broad so that many can enter. It was a bit disappointing this past year to have limited entries in the Art Contest. There are two very broad categories in this contest for the upcoming year – 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional objects. Some of you may be “doodlers” – this kind of object would be a great 2-dimensional entry. I heard from a couple people that they wanted Ceramics added – these items may be entered into the 3-dimensional category. I know there are a lot of creative Grangers out there, and look forward to their work! The topics for the Creative Writing contest have changed, and one class has been added, so now this contest includes classes of poems, stories, and book reports.



A new contest this year is Family Heritage. This is the result of discussions with several people at the State Grange session. The entry for one class is a chart, illustration, or drawing showing a minimum of three generations of a family including each person's name. I will be including some examples in the Lecturer's Bulletin this year, but there is no set format for this class. This could be started in a Grange meeting Lecturer's Program. The other class is a Family Photo Story, for which there are few rules. Descriptions and/or labels are encouraged for the photos, and a minimum of three photos are to be included. This entire contest is meant to encourage creativity in display of family heritage information.

Last year was the first year for the “Original Grange Program” contest. Only one entry was received. This contest does not require the person entering the program to be a Lecturer, nor does it require that the program was presented/executed in a Grange meeting. Use your creative juices to think of what might be a “perfect Grange program” – it could be a “regular” Lecturer's program during a meeting, or it could be a special program that may or may not be within a Grange meeting.

Five entrants participated in the Public impromptu speech of 3-5 minutes. Winners test will continue with new topics in the cated they are planning to enter! A second class, participants will bring their reading Thursday evening at the Michigan State have a contest at their level as well.



Speaking Contest in October, each giving an were judged by those in attendance. This coming year. Several people have already indi-class has been added of “Readings”. For this with them. Both of these classes will be held on Grange session, but local Granges may wish to

I am hoping that each of you create resolutions and take the time to create something in the coming year for the Michigan State Grange Lecturer's Program. I can't wait to see the results.

Get creative!

**REMEMBER TO SAVE THE PROGRAM BOOK
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120
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Happy New Year everyone! Wow, 2019 is in the books and 2020 has just started! Well I am sure everyone is starting to think about Spring and winter is not even half over! I know it is important to have snow during the winter months as that helps to add moisture to our farm fields and also helps to protect the winter wheat during the cold months. So far, we haven't had hardly any snow in my area of Michigan which seems weird as it is Dec 17th as I sit writing this article. We aren't even to have any snow for Christmas and temps were to be in the mid 40s that week. We will pay for it in January and February I am sure!

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, but 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.

Here is a good reason to be planning early. Be sure to check out the Agriculture Department in the Program Book. I have added a new class as well as keeping a few classes from 2019 for all ages (separate divisions for Adults and Juniors) to enter at the 2020 State Session pertaining to Agriculture. I hope all will really look at entering something. If our State Session was during the late Summer or early Fall months, we could do more classes to deal with fruits, vegetables and flowers. But, it is kind of hard to do tomatoes or raspberries in late October. Have fun with these classes as I kept a few of the classes that had entries in the 2019 State Session for possible classes and also an idea from the Co Directors of Family Activities!! Any unique container with any type of plant (indoor/outdoor/herbs). Let your imagination wander and have fun! There is also a fun Grange Challenge in the Ag department that could also be used for your Community Service Notebook. Be sure to check the Program Book included in this issue of the MGN for full class listings and details.

Here is a part of a clipping from the October 2015 Tennessee Granger dealing with Honey Bees. Bees of all kinds have been declining in numbers over the past few years. The reasons are many, but one of the most important is the lack of suitable plants from which bees can collect nectar and pollen all season long. About 1/3 of the food eaten by Americans come from crops pollinated by honey bees, including fruits, vegetables and nuts.

You can help honey bees and native pollinators by planting bee-friendly plants in your garden. Here is a list of perennials to help get a bee garden started: Crocus, White Sweet Clover, Catnip, Russian Sage, Mountain Mint, Snowdrops, Thyme, Purple Cone Flower, Anise Hyssop, Goldenrod and Autumn Joy Sedum.

Well that is all for now. Here is hoping 2020 is a great Grange year for all and brings bounty to our Agriculture Neighbors and Friends!

MEMBERSHIP**Increasing members**

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
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I have one year completed as the Michigan State Grange Membership Director. There is a lot to learn with this position!

I would like to welcome Audrey Ewing to my committee! She is willing to work with me to devise a plan to get additional members in Michigan. Thanks Audrey for saying "I would be delighted!"

The National Grange is not continuing the display contest for 2019-2020, but I would like to promote it as a state contest. The entries will be judged in Michigan. There will be one winner in each category – digital and non-digital – with each winner receiving \$25. There will not be a separation between large and small Granges. I hope to see entries this year as I did not receive any last year!

There will be a mailing soon to all membership chairmen. At National Grange I picked up a package of pledge cards. I would like each Grange to seriously think about getting one new member in the next Grange year! Sometimes all it takes to gain a new member is ask them to participate in a Grange event. For every Grange that returns the pledge card to me, they will be recognized at state session next fall.

Please take the time to read the membership information in the Program Book. The tools will be there for your Grange to grow your membership. I will be here to give assistance.

In the meantime, have a safe & warm winter!

Tricia

GRANGE HAPPENINGS

2019 Michigan State Grange
"Very Important Patron"
Athol Hazen, Jr.
Fredonia Grange #1713



The presentation was made at a Grange function by Athol's son, Rich Hazen.

Congratulations Athol!

A HUGE THANK YOU from the Michigan State Grange Office for all of the wonderful supplies that were donated before and during the 2019 Annual Convention.

These contributions included ink cartridges, reams of paper, boxes of envelopes, notepaper, notepads, note books, note cards, index cards, sticky notes, post-it-notes, pencils for the folders, and more pens and pencils. These items all help with the headquarters expenses throughout the year.

We even have a pledge for copy paper when we need more here in the office.

Shortly before the convention we ordered copy paper and got a great deal so 3 cases were ordered. We also ordered toner for the copier and have a lot of that ahead. The mailing seals for those that receive the MGN through the mail have been stocked up. We are always looking for bargains and sales.

BURNS GRANGE #160 SENDS CARDS TO THE TROOPS



At a recent meeting of Burns Grange, members signed and wrote messages in approximately 50 Christmas Cards for the troops.

Other projects during the last few weeks include gathering paper products and personal hygiene products



for the Byron VFW Auxiliary for needy families in the area; Cookies for the Byron Christmas in the Village event; non-perishable foods for the "Fill the Truck" held by the Sheriffs Dept. and Central Dispatch; and filled tote bags to the Safe Center in Owosso.



There are so many in need all year long but especially at the holiday time and we try to do our part to help where needed.

Secretary

Mailing, etc.

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Happy New Year Everyone! Wow 2020....already! Let's all work together for a Wonderful, successful, lots of growth, Grange year!

Shortly the Legislative Policy Booklets, Journal of Proceedings, Rosters and By-Laws will be on their way. We email as many as we can and send the others on their way through the USPS. These will be sent to the Master's and Secretaries as well as the State Officers and Department Directors. Please share them with other members. If you need extra copies emailed or mailed be sure to let me know.

You may have already received (if not soon you will) the large manila envelope from me containing the quarterly report forms, instructions, and for some of you that still use them, the Subordinate reports to Pomona. **Please keep these in a safe place so you have them for the year.** There are two copies of the report forms for each quarter...one for your records and one to mail to the State Office with your check.

Something that has been brought to my attention lately on more than one occasion, actually, is Grange's that don't always take minutes of the meetings. As Secretary of your Grange it is your responsibility to take minutes of each and every Grange meeting. It's important to have the records of what takes place at each meeting for many reasons. Something might come up that you need to check back to see what action was taken on a particular subject, or need proof of it. It may not always be possible for you to be at every meeting, so if you can, arrange for someone else to take the minutes for you or have your Master appoint someone to do it for that one meeting, just make sure it is done.



**St. Joseph/Cass/
Kalamazoo
Pomona Grange
#4**

Generous hearts and giving hands would be a pretty good description of

the St. Joseph/Cass/Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4. We've a small group in numbers but are always looking for a way to aid others.

For several years we have been doing a small Mitten Tree and Food Stuff Collection at our December meeting. 2019 was very successful as the final count was 31 foodstuffs to be given to the Colon Food Bank, and 36 pair of gloves & mittens, 14 hats, 4 headbands and 8 pair of socks will go to the Colon Free Store.



“Christmas in Colon”

“Helping hands helping others” just might be the banner to fly over the village of Colon as once again organizations, businesses and agencies untied to observe



“Christmas in Colon”.

Colon Grange #215 played a prominent role in making the year's 2-day event a major success. Grangers opened their hall and their hearts as they manned a warming station as people needed to warm from very cool temperatures.



Over the 2 days Colon Grange members and friends furnished 14 crock-pots or roasters of delicious soups as well as hot cocoa and coffee.

Seven different craft stations were set up where

kids and family could work on take home Christmas collectibles.

We were fortunate to have Santa on sight both days and Friday night an elf, a decorated tree and even the Grinch stopped by.

Another Yule time event for Colon members is their “gifts for 1st graders” project which has been going on for about 30 years. Grange members furnish small gifts, take them to the school and the Kids pick out a gift for each parent or case-provider. Grangers are assisted by members of the Colon High School National Honor Society who help with the wrapping.

As our Pomona Grange was holding its December meeting at the Colon Grange Hall, local members also enthusiastically supported the Mitten and Food stuff collection. These articles will be given to the Colon Free Store and Colon Food Bank.

And, we're still overjoyed that our 2019 Colon Magi Football team won the State Championship!



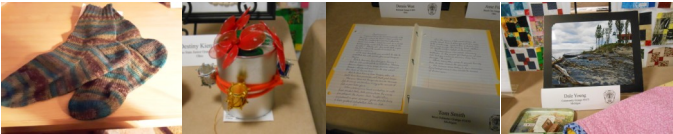
Michigan Grange Pin

Have you got your pin yet? We still have plenty available. They would make great prizes or gifts for your members or new members or even prospective members! The proceeds are going towards our 150th Anniversary celebration. The cost of the pin is \$5.00 per pin, and are available through the State Secretary. All efforts will be made to hand deliver the pins if someone will be in the area. However, if the pins are to be shipped there will be a small charge for shipping.

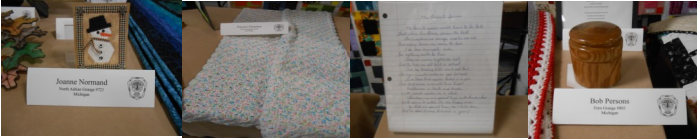
Get yours now.

MSG Risograph has been...





Russell Hoag Marc Johnston Tom Smith Dale Young



Joanne Normand Naomi Fletcher Tom Smith Robert Persons



Joanne Normand Naomi Fletcher Dale Young Mary Ann Rocco



Studley Grange#1174

Michigan was well represented at the National Grange Convention with all of the above State Entries and Best of Show Winners. Many compliments were made on all of these items. Congratulations once again to the winners!

Community Service

Rules/Suggestions

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

Happy New Year to all Grangers!!!

May the New Year find you happy and surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Here is a brief description of what your Community Service report should include.

Community Service Report Rules and

Suggestions:

Program Date: September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020

Community Service Report Due:

September 10, 2020. This means that your book needs to be delivered to the State Community Service Director on or before that date.

Mary Ann Rocco

145 Beadle Lake Drive

Battle Creek, MI 49014

Divisions:

Granges are divided into two categories, small Granges with 40 members or less and large Granges with more than 40 members. Membership numbers are determined by the second quarter (June 30) members report to the State Secretary. Granges will compete within own category.

Summary Report:

A Summary Report form will be supplied to each Community Service Chairman. A report may be submitted alone or with a notebook to receive full credit as an entry. Reports may be typed or neatly hand written.

Notebook Report:

Notebook reports MUST contain the Summary Report as the first pages of the report. Materials should be organized and indexed in a manner that effectively tells the story of your



More Pictures from MSD



**OH WHAT
FUN WAS HAD BY
THE KIDS AND THE
ADULTS AS WELL!**

Grange's Community Service work. Some choose to arrange projects from large to small and others choose to arrange materials in chronological order. You might also want to include newspaper articles, flyers and or pictures of your events. Remember if a couple of pictures cover the event is isn't necessary to use a couple of pages of materials.

Awards:

Lets be thinking, do you have a member of your Grange that you want to honor them by nominating them for the VIP Award or Dedicated Person Award. We also have the privilege of honoring a Firefighter/EMT, A Law Enforcement Officer or a Teacher of Year Award in your area that deserves special reconciliation for services in your area, helping with Grange service projects or very special projects/services they do.

More in depth information will be coming in the next months. What's happening in your Granges. If you have something you would like me to feature in the Michigan Grange News let me know.

If I can do anything to help you, please contact me.