



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XVII NO. 4

USPS 345-580

APRIL, 2011

## PROCLAMATION

**April 2011 as Grange Month**

*Connecting Communities through Service*

**WHEREAS** Grange members understand that the backbone of America is the thousands of individual communities that make up our great nation; and

**WHEREAS** thousands of communities have been enriched from the presence of a local Grange through a multitude of projects that have educated and aided the citizens in many positive and innovative ways; and

**WHEREAS** these Community Granges have given power to local citizens to solve local problems by the joining of ideas and voices through non-partisan legislative action and service projects; and

**WHEREAS** for 144 years the Grange has understood that connecting communities begins with bringing people together in a family atmosphere to give each the opportunity to reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS** the Grange is a true grassroots organization, we are based in the local community and serve the local community and together have a national voice; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that April 2011 is hereby proclaimed as Grange Month throughout the United States. Every Grange will welcome new members, exciting ideas, and powerful enthusiasm into their family. By connecting Americans through the Grange, the service our organization gives will further connect our communities across America.

Proclaimed this day by:

Edward L. Luttrell, President

The National Grange

Attest:

Judy Sherrod, Secretary

The National Grange

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[www.michiganstategrange.org](http://www.michiganstategrange.org)



## Michigan Grange News

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

**Editor & Adv. Manager:**

Christopher D. Johnston

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

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April 18 Michigan State Grange  
Executive Committee  
Meeting

April 22 Good Friday

April 24 Easter



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404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429  
Tel: 989-288-4546  
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

## Chaplain

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

## Happy Spring

As I was reading my Bible this morning I came upon the verse from Romans 8: 19-20. "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope, that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." This made me look outside my window and realize that this is what might just be happening outside. All I could see was what looked like diamonds on the trees, bushes and weeds. The sun was shining brightly but everything was covered in ice from the storm the day before. I had to think about how under all of that ice there were flowers, grass and tree leaves waiting to spring forth and show us the creation of life that God had planned for us. Even though I was still cold from having no heat the day before, I knew that God, in all of his Glory, was still giving us a bright sun and warmth that only he could give us.



I know that we will get April showers so that we can have May flowers and that it is only April but I personally am ready for May flowers. To be able to see the green grass blades, the new leaves on the trees and the spring flowers popping up along my fence, will give me the visual sign that God is mighty and that "creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay". God creation has been resting and decaying all winter and soon it will be "brought into the glorious freedom" for the children of God. As we moan and groan about the fact that it is still cold outside and that we are tired of the snow and cold, let us remember that "All comes in God own time, not ours". Happy Spring to all.



## In Memory

Sister Ruby Yeutter passed away on March 9, 2011 in Diamondale, Michigan. Her funeral was held at the Wagley Funeral Home in Adrian on March 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Ruby had served in many offices and committees at Rome Grange over the years including Secretary, Lecturer, Chaplain, and Ceres.

Ruby served as Pomona from 1946—1952, as Flora from 1962-1964 and as Youth Director for a number of years for the Michigan State Grange. Her involvement with the Youth led her to her participation with the young people in Germany and a follow up trip to Germany to visit the youth who had participated. This led her into tours with "Farmers and World Affairs" with two trips to India and Pakistan. As group leader with U.S. Participants and numerous tours of the U.S. with exchangees from India and Pakistan.

Sister Ruby led a very interesting and exciting life and will be greatly missed by the members of Rome Grange, Lenawee County Pomona Grange and the Michigan State Grange. Well done, good and faithful servant.



## GRANGE MONTH

April is Grange month and I know Grangers like to brag about the wonderful things that are going on in their own Granges and Communities. Let us know what your Grange has planned for the month of April. I believe that this year's Grange Month motto of "Connecting Communities Through Service" is really quite fitting; after all, don't we strive to connect our communities through the service that we provide to our respective communities. Many Granges around the state will be presenting their Dedicated Worker award, their Community Citizen awards and their VIP (Very Important Patron) awards during the month of April. Take pictures and send them to us so we can get them online and in the Grange News. Let us help you tell the story about the important people from our communities through the World Wide Web.



## DISTINGUISHED GRANGE AWARD

There is a fairly new program that National Grange has started known as the Distinguished Grange Award. This program honors Subordinate and State Granges that fulfill their responsibilities as part of the National Grange, while excelling in the areas of membership, fundraising and service to their communities.

The program is presented annually at the National Grange Convention and the 2011 presentation will be in Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2010-2011 Distinguished Granges will be honored for their work done July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 at a special reception at the National Session and will be recognized in the Annual Honors Booklet. They will receive a certificate to commemorate the occasion, along with a ribbon for the Subordinate or State Master. Granges that are considered distinguished for five consecutive years will receive a plaque for their hall. The deadline to register as a Distinguished Grange will be August 1, 2011.

More information can be found in the Grange month packet sent out by National Grange and also online at [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org) under the programs section. I am sure there are many Granges in the state that are qualified to be recog-

nized as Distinguished Granges, why not take a few minutes to fill out the form, send it in and receive the recognition that we deserve.

## GRANGE GATHERING DAY

The National Grange Lecturer's Department is proud to announce a nationwide Grange event for 2011. The National Master, Ed, and National Lecturer, Pete, agree that with the success of last year's rededication of National Grange Headquarters, a nationwide event was in order. After discussing with some members, it was decided to hold a nationwide Grange Gathering on July 16, 2011. The only actual "rule" is that Granges hold some type of event that day. The National Grange will have some suggested topics for events in case they are needed, but Granges do not need to use them and can come up with their own ideas.

Granges may want to use this event as a way to say thanks to your own members, use it to reintroduce your Grange to your community, or as a membership boosting drive. As you can tell, it is up to you. I would like to hear from you to know if and what your Grange is doing so that we can send out a newsletter telling the other Granges what is going on around the state. And we will also send it to the newspapers as a news release to let everyone know what your Grange has planned.

## REGIONAL COORDINATORS

A few months ago I sent out a letter asking for each of the regions to select a coordinator for hosting the state session in your respective regions. I have heard very little from Granges and so now I am requesting that every Grange elect a person to serve on the committee for your region and that committee will elect a chair person. I want to thank Barnard, Torch Lake, Fern, Studley and Burns for having selected a person to serve in this capacity by the end of April. If I have not heard from any Grange in a region I will select a person to serve and to work to get a committee consisting of one person from each Grange in their respective region.

## GGs'11

Reminder that the deadline will soon be approaching to get registered for the Grange Growth Summit 2011 taking place in Niles, MI at Community Grange with lodging being at Baymont Inn and Suites in Dowagiac. The registration fee is \$42.00 per person and this covers lunch and dinner and program materials. Lodging costs are \$69.00 per night plus applicable taxes. Registration is being handled through the National Grange Office via Jesse Cope, National Grange Executive Assistant/Meeting Planner; her number is 1-888-447-2643 ext. 113.

Until the next time.....

Lois Nichols, Director P.O. Box 19186 Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
Tel: 269-720-5057 E-Mail loisketchum@netzero.com

## **DOGS FOR THE DEAF**

Recently I have been in contact with Robin Dickson, President/CEO of Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. (DFD). Some of you may have seen her at the National Grange session in Grand Rapids as she had a booth there for DFD. She is a Grange member in Oregon.

"Dogs for the Deaf was founded in 1977 by the late Roy G. Kabat, a long-time Hollywood and circus animal trainer who raised animals for motion pictures and television shows including 'Dr. Doolittle' and 'Born Free.' His daughter, Robin Dickson, is his successor and the CEO/President of Dogs for the Deaf." Their mission statement is: "Rescuing and professionally training dogs to assist people and enhance their lives, maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue and all teams we serve."

"Hearing Dogs are chosen from animal shelters. Many shelters must euthanize dogs if no homes are found for them. By using shelter dogs, we are able to help alleviate some of the unwanted dog population by rescuing these dogs. Once trained, they are placed in loving homes where they provide valuable and even life saving benefits. The dogs are usually mixed breeds up to 36 months of age. The trainers look for dogs that are friendly, energetic, healthy, and confident. Each dog is individually evaluated by a Dogs for the Deaf trainer. Those passing the evaluation are brought back to our facility for a thorough medical exam, needed vaccinations, and treatment to bring them to optimum health. All dogs are micro chipped, spayed or neutered, and then begin the intensive 4 to 6 months of training."

"Our Hearing Dogs spend four to six months in training learning how to alert their trainer to sounds in their environment. We train our Hearing Dogs to respond to seven sounds: fire and smoke alarms, the telephone, oven timer, alarm clock, door bell/door knock, and name call (and sometimes the baby cry). Once placed with their deaf partner, the dogs easily learn to respond to additional sounds such as the microwave, tea kettle, and washer/dryer. Hearing Dogs can be taught to alert people to any repetitive sound that can be set up and practiced regularly."

"Follow up takes a great deal of time. We have hundreds of working dogs all across the country. We are in regular contact with all of them through e-mail, telephone, regular mail, and follow up visits. This is the only way we can ensure that the dogs are being cared for properly and that the person and dog are receiving maximum benefit from each other. This goes on for the entire life of the team."

"In over 33 years, Dogs for the Deaf has rescued and placed over 3,000 dogs in homes." These dogs are placed nationwide free of charge because of generous donors like the Grange.

## **DOGGY STORIES**

"Loops, a darling red and white, male Cocker/Poodle mix, came from the Fresno, California, SPCA. He had been a stray roaming the streets and, when our trainers saw him at the shelter, his coat was matted and overgrown, and he had kennel cough. He was in terrible shape, but he still had a zest for life that made him a likely candidate for one of our programs. After getting him

healthy and into top physical condition, he was ready to start training, and he loved it. He was happy and excited receiving his toys and treats when he did what his trainer wanted. He learned to respond to all of the normal household sounds, and he learned his obedience skills well. With training completed, Loops and his trainer headed off to his new home."

"A small, red with a black mask, three year old Pekingese named Ginny. . . . had a very rough start to life. We found her at the N.E.W. Animal Protection League, a rescue group in eastern Washington. They had rescued her from a hoarding/puppy mill situation, but, in spite of her rough start in life, she was very friendly and had a sweet disposition. Initially we thought she might be a candidate for becoming a Hearing Dog, but she did not have the energy level for that. Ginny was however, perfect for our Miracle Mutt program. She wanted to please and learned her lessons well. She also loved going on walks and getting lots of cuddle time. When training was complete, Ginny was matched" with a loving family.

Besides Hearing Dogs, DFD also trains Autism Assistance Dogs, Program Assistance Dogs, Miracle Mutts, Harmony's Hounds, and Career Change Dogs.

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**As a special project this year for State Convention, I am asking that each Grange collect dog toys and treats to be sent to Dogs for the Deaf. Bring your donations to the State Session and place them in the special container that will be at the Deaf Awareness display. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

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"*The Canine Listener* is a quarterly newsletter published by Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. To provide information on Hearing Dogs, placements, dog training, and other news about happenings at Dogs for the Deaf." If you would like to sign up to receive this newsletter, go to [www.dogsforthe deaf.org](http://www.dogsforthe deaf.org).

## **TOUR DOGS FOR THE DEAF**

"We would love to have you visit our facility in Central Point, Oregon. We will show you a 16-minute video, take you on a tour of the facility, and give you a demonstration of one of the dogs actually in training.

"So as not to disrupt the trainers' busy schedules, we ask that you please call ahead to make an appointment. Tours take approximately 45 minutes. May 1 – September 30, tours are at 10am, 11am, 1pm, and 2pm. October 1 – April 30 tours are at 10am and 2pm. We are open on Monday through Friday, except for holidays. RV parking is available.

"Write or call for directions and to make a reservation for a tour. Come on out to see us. We'll be looking forward to meeting you!"

Dogs for the Deaf, Inc.  
10175 Wheeler Road  
Central Point, OR 97502  
(541) 826-9220 Voice/TDD

*All quotes in this article come from The Canine Listener with permission*



Sue Wagner 4091 Bauer Road, Hudsonville, MI 49426  
 Tel: 616-669-6226 E-mail susiezq147@aol.com  
 Mary Houghton 6935 Monroe Road, Springport, MI 49284  
 Tel: 517-857-2686 E-mail mary.houghton@gmail.com

On the date that this article is being written, there are three Subordinate Grange events listed on the Michigan State Grange website Grange Activities section. So this is a Save the Date announcement.

All three activities advertised are fund raising events. So it feels right to report the activities in this article. They will probably be raising money to maintain their hall or to fund a worthwhile community service project. Both are equally important to us.

April 3 Burns Grange is holding one of their annual Chicken Dinners. April 3 is a Sunday and the time of the event is 11:30 - 2. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 5-12 and children under 5 are free. Takeout meals are available. The Grange hall address is 6630 Cole Road in Bancroft. Contact telephone number is 989-634-9407.

April 21<sup>st</sup> Gratiot Grange is having a Bake Sale. This is a Thursday and the sale begins at 9:00 am and is being held at Firstbank in Ashley Mi. Google listed this address 114 South Sterling St Ashley. Kathryn Strouse's phone number is 989-875-2894. The proceeds will benefit the Words for Thirds Dictionary Project.

April 30<sup>th</sup> Peninsula Grange will hold a Spring Pancake Supper. This is a Saturday. They start serving at 5:00pm and end serving at 7:00pm. The Grange hall is located at the corner of Looze Rd and Advance Rd in East Jordan. Walt Murphy's phone number is 231-536-7296.

There are more Granges having activities than are listed on the website. If you know about another Grange's event, try to attend to give support. And tell someone else about the event so they might attend as well. When you get there, if you have a couple moments to spare, and it appears that they may need help, lend a hand. Or if you have the opportunity to share a complimentary comment to another person who is attending the event, it WILL help the Grange. Either option would be an appreciated gesture.

The website has Grange Activities contact opportunity. If you want us to know about your fund raising efforts or a fun activity that your Grange has planned, fill in the form on the website and the activity will be listed. Or let our State Secretary know and she can also see that the information gets posted on the website.

Good luck to Burns Grange, Gratiot Grange and Peninsula Grange. We hope your events are successful and you reach the goal you intended to reach. Oh yeah, when you are counting up your dollars be sure to look for the one dollar bills with the "G" series. You might be able to share a few of the dollars collected from others peoples money to help another Grange. Just a thought.

Harbor Springs is the recipient for our "G" dollar donation this year. You may recall that some Granges and Grangers supplied us with some dollar bills with a "G" series noted on the left side of the dollar bill. Harbor Springs Grange has gotten the OK to distribute dictionaries to the three 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes for the Harbor Springs Schools. I went out to The Dictionary Project web site to order the dictionaries so by the time this article is being read the students should have their books. Thank you to Carolyn Kurburski, Barb Vorce, and all the helping hands at Harbor Springs Grange for your help in making this happen.

While I was on The Dictionary Project web site I found a matrix that has some interesting news. And it might lead us to a new goal. For those

of us that have been Grangers for a long time, there will be memories of a time when Michigan had a contest with Ohio State Grange and the Pennsylvania State Grange to make and distribute more stuffed toys than the other state. It was a friendly competition and the Michigan State Women's Activities Director was quite crafty at prodding us to make more toys made than the other states. Several times we were successful.

While I was at the Dictionary site there is a matrix that lists the State Granges and how many dictionaries they have distributed. The State of Washington Granges has donated 138,778. I am not sure we can compete with them but it would be worth a try. But a State that is close to us and a possible contender for us to beat is Ohio. Their Granges have donated 45,255 and Michigan Granges have donated 36,122 plus the 80 more for Harbor Springs for 36,202. We are ahead of Massachusetts and Illinois. And Pennsylvania isn't even on the list so we're in third place. So I say lets try for second. Give it a thought.

STATE	TOTAL BOOKS DONATED
Washington	138,778
Ohio	45,255
Michigan	36,122
Massachusetts	32,760
Illinois	30,476

## Great Lakes Grange Leaders Conference

April 8, 9, 10, 2011

Great Oaks Camp, 1380 CR 900 N, Lacon, Illinois  
 Cost: \$90.00

Lecturers will be receiving information and reservation forms soon, be sure to encourage any and all of your members to attend. It's an educational weekend filled with a lot of fun.

Watch mailing for the CHOI—Community  
Service Project

**If you plan to attend the GLGLC please contact Sharon Popler, Lecturer**

## Grange Growth Summit

May 13-15, 2011

Community Grange, Niles, Michigan

Registration fee: \$42.00 per person

(covers cost of program material and 2 meals)

Rooms available at the Baymont Inn and Suites  
 29291 Amerihost Drive (at M51 & M62)

Dowagiac, MI 49047

Tel: 269-782-4270 for reservations

Rooms \$69.00 +6% tax per night

## Earth Day

Nature is slowly re-awakening after its' winter slumber.

The daffodils and tulips are pushing though the earth. Trees and shrubs are budding, the sap is running. Robins, bluebirds, and even the swans are returning to our backyards and ponds.

Nature replenishes us, body and soul. With its' wonderful sights, smells, and wild life to enjoy. It gives so much and asks so little in return.

Earth Day is April 22nd., however we need to treat the earth and nature with respect everyday. We need to be good STEWARDS.

We can start with recycling more, check out your area for recycling centers. If you have recycling pick-up great, use it, and be glad you can.

Today's society is a wasteful one. Think about donating that appliance or clothing before throwing it in a landfill. Think about recovering that chair before replacing it. If you have something you just don't want put it out by the road, you'd be surprised how quickly free items are scooped up.

Switch from paper products to the real thing. Cloth napkins, handkerchiefs and towels.

Carry cloth bags to the store, and not just the grocery store, any store. Keep a few in your car so they are handy.

Conserve water, take shorter showers, don't let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth. Wash full loads of laundry, and when using the dishwasher. Fix any drips, you'd be surprised by how much water is wasted.

Turn down the temperature on your water heater. Wrap the heater in an insulated blanket. Wash your clothes in cold water, and hang items whenever possible.

With so many hi-tech gadgets, we are wasteful with electricity. Put your items on a power strip and turn off the switch when not in use. Don't forget about small appliances either. The toaster, water-pik, electric toothbrush, etc., unplug when not in use.

Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs whenever possible. They use much less wattage and last much longer.

There are so many ways to help preserve our planet, I've only touched on a few, look around you and see what small thing you can do to make a difference.

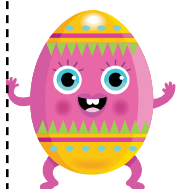
I left one of my pet peeves for last. I hate roadside trash. If all of us would clean up our small area in our neighborhood it would be a start. A neighborhood clean-up party would be a great project for our juniors. Pick an area near your hall, local park, school, anywhere. You will be helping the environment, beautifying the area, and doing community service, what could be better than that!

## Suggestion for cupcake contest entry

Easter is coming! How about making some cute decorated cupcakes. Have them for Easter dinner, a Grange meeting, or a school party.

Use your favorite cupcake batter, chocolate, vanilla, whatever. Frost your cupcakes with your favorite white frosting. Tint some coconut green. Sprinkle the coconut on top of cupcakes to resemble a bird's nest. Lay three jelly beans on top of nest. An alternative would be to use chow mein noodles in place of coconut. Use your imagination. Have fun!

If you have Internet access, Google Easter cupcake recipes and other fun projects, you'd be surprised at what you'll find.



**Happy  
Easter**

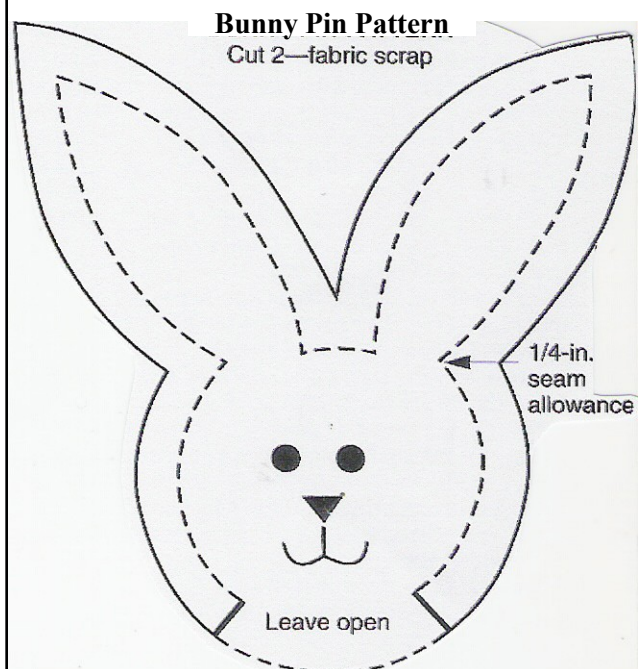
## Easter Craft

Materials Needed:

Pattern on page  
Tracing paper  
Pencil  
Fabric scrap  
Fine-line permanent black marker  
Small amount of polyester or several cotton balls  
2 black 4mm beads or Eyes  
4-inch length of 1/8 inch wide or 1/4 inch wide satin ribbon  
Tacky glue  
Pin back or 1-inch magnet  
White thread  
Scissors  
Sewing machine

Trace pattern onto tracing paper, cut out. Trace around pattern twice on scrap, cut out. With wrong sides to-

gether, begin at lower edge of bunny's neck to machine stitch 1/4 in. from edge all around bunny, pivoting at corners and leaving open as indicated on pattern. Clip bunny edges to the line of stitching about 1/8 in. all around. To fray edges, thoroughly wet each stitched and clipped bunny and machine dry. Stuff head and ears lightly. Stitch closed. Glue beads on, attach ribbon, draw on face, glue on pin back. For "fridge" glue on magnet.



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

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring-like weather (at least more so than in February) that we are having. With new growth in our yards and fields, we also think of ideas of new growth for other areas of our lives as well. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I will discuss recruiting new Grange members and becoming an ambassador for your Grange this month. The ideas discussed here were presented and discussed during a National Grange Teamspeak session. There is a brochure available at the National Grange website: <http://www.nationalgrange.org/departments/Recruiting.pdf> that also outlines these steps.

**Step 1: Set the stage.** The idea of this step is to get people to talk about the Grange and what it does. When each of you is participating in other community activities, you can learn about the issues and opportunities specific to your community. Think about ways that the Grange can be involved in community conversations. It might simply mean wearing a Grange pin to a community meeting or displaying a Grange bumper sticker. It might mean just mentioning ways that you are participating in Grange community service activities. When you get someone to ask the question, "What is the Grange?", you are ready to move to Step 2.

**Step 2. Listen.** Many of us have developed our "speech" to answer the question above, and are ready to jump in and tell people what we do as a Grange. BUT, the trick is to answer their question very briefly, and then to find out what the person's interests are, instead of boring them with a long-winded response to their question that they get bored by. You want to identify at least one need that they have or one issue that they are concerned about that the Grange might be able to meet or work on. It is important not to be dismissive to their comments, keeping in mind that their need may be totally different than yours. Their need might be family activities, friends/fellowship, fun activities, community service, legislative concerns, or leadership opportunities.

**Step 3. Fill the need.** Now, you share how the Grange can fill the specific needs that they identified. You can share your experience of how this is worked for you, or others in the Grange. This is when you provide concrete examples, not philosophical examples. You might mention activities your Junior Grange had recently, how the youth have participated in a community service project, how dances have provided fun activities for the community, how Grangers can be recognized for their needlework or baking expertise, or whatever it is that your Grange has available.

**Step 4. Ask them to join.** Many of us are afraid to get "no", and we somehow think people will fill out the application we handed to them, even if we didn't specifically ask them to join. Seldom do people come forward to join any organization today without being specifically asked to join. At most, 24% will say yes, according to some recent research, so we need to be ok with the "no" answer. Even if they say no, it is wise to provide them with a brochure or information regarding an upcoming event at your Grange. If the response is "not sure", ask for their phone number, invite them to an event or public Grange function; thank them for the conversation and follow up. If you get "yes" – hooray! Give them an applica-

tion, and have them fill it out right then. Collect the dues if possible also. Indicate how excited you are that they have committed to join the Grange, and make sure you follow up to personally let them know details regarding the next meeting.

These four steps make recruiting an easier task than many of us perceive it to be. We can be successful as a Grange organization if we continue to "step up" and ask people to join the organization that so many of us hold dear. I know that many of you (individuals and members) will want to make the choice to try these 4 steps to recruiting. Let me know if you would like me to come to a Grange meeting to discuss these steps further. I would welcome the opportunity.

For more training and participation in growing the Grange in Michigan, sign up for the Grange Growth Summit to be held May 13-15 at Community Grange in Cass County. Details and registration forms can be found at the Michigan State Grange website: <http://www.michiganstategrange.org/> or by

## West Oshtemo Grange Celebrated their 94th Anniversary in January, 2011



West Oshtemo Grange members celebrated the 94th Anniversary of the Grange during the January Jam Session at the hall.

Tables were decorated for the event and the music was great. Everyone had an excellent time.

Congratulations to West Oshtemo Grange

## Studley Grange Delivers Dictionaries



## "Words For Thirds"

Dictionaries were presented to the students at Floyd Elementary School in Midland recently. Secretary, Tricia Eidsmoe said that the students were really excited to get them.



Kevin Young, 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120  
Tel: 269-684-3870 Email: kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

I recently attended a dinner put on by my County Administrator's Office which brings all local forms of government together for what is called an Intergovernmental Forum Dinner. We are able to network over dinner with other local officials and when dinner is over there are usually a few speakers sharing topics that pertain to local government. This year the main speaker spoke on Michigan's Agri-Food Industry. During his presentation, he gave the following information that was very interesting and I would like to share that with you as well. The speaker started by sharing that during Governor Snyder's first State of the State address, Snyder said that "We must better recognize agriculture's importance to our economy. We also need to support the families who produce and process our food."

It was very interesting to hear that Michigan's Agri-Food Industry contributes \$71.3 billion annually to the state's economy, employs 1 million Michigan residents, produces over 200 commodities and is second most agriculturally diverse state in the U.S. Here are some of the statistics given that makes Michigan stand out in the U.S.:



### **Fruit & Vegetable Industry**

Tart Cherries ranked #1; Blueberries ranked #1; Cucumbers (for pickling) ranked #1; Squash ranked #1; Carrots & Celery ranked #2; Apples ranked #3; Asparagus ranked #3 and Potatoes ranked #9 in the U.S.



### **Field Crops**

Dry Beans – Black, Cranberry and Small Red ranked #1 in the U.S.; Sugar Beets – ranked #4; Soybeans – ranked #12; Corn – ranked #11.

The really interesting stat was that the leading segment of Michigan's agriculture industry, providing a \$5.9 billion impact to our state economy and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> nationally in milk production is our Dairy industry.

What does all of this mean... when you are out grocery shopping, check the shelves for items that were grown or raised in Michigan. This will keep our Agri-Industry growing like it has been doing for over a decade, which has shown an increase by 29% since 1997.

## **Welcome New Members!!**

Arlene Hilgendorf — Burns Grange #160

### **Midwest**

Jeff/Nancy Swainston, Co-Directors 2589 144th Ave., Dorr, MI 49323  
Tel: 616-813-8746 jnsphoto@charterinternet.com

### **Midwest Youth/Junior Conference**

OK... you have been hearing that Michigan is hosting the **Midwest Youth/Junior Conference** this year and now we have a little bit more info. Not a lot yet but at least the dates and times so you can get it on your calendar. The conference will be held **June 10-12, 2011 at our home near Dorr**. The conference will begin on Friday afternoon and wrap up by noon on Sunday. There will be **educational workshops, recreational time, and a whole lotta fun!**

We decided instead of having it a campground or Grange Hall it would be easier and cheaper to host it at our house. Bring your tents, campers, sleeping bags and plan on having a great weekend with other Grange youth from around the Midwest. We have a full unfinished basement in case of inclement weather but we all know we won't have to worry about that...haha....



We will kick things off with a **hot dog roast and campfire on Friday evening** and if the weather permits, take a **field trip on Saturday**. There will be **different activities for youth and juniors** but there will also be **some time spent together**. More information will be coming out soon but please get the dates on you calendars. You won't want to miss it!!!



### **Michigan Grange News**

Last month was the first month that we sent the Michigan Grange News by email to those that wished to have it that way. There were a few problems, like wrong email addresses... otherwise it went very well.

If you have asked or wish to have it by email and are not getting it that way, please be sure to notify us at **msgrange1873@yahoo.com or 989-288-4546**.

Masters and Secretaries are to receive it by mail.

There were a few that did not go through on the email and we had to switch it over to the regular mail. I do know that you have to have high speed Internet in order to be able to open it in a fashionable amount of time.

Any problems...please let us know.



## Six Degree Dresses For Sale:

Ginny VanSickle — 517-467-2406 or jackvan69@aol.com has a white 6th degree dress for sale. Size 16 — excellent condition — \$75.00

Gerry Cote — 517-265-2566 or syandgerry@tc3net.com also has a white 6th degree dress for sale. Size 16 — 55 inches long. — \$50.00

We are also looking for a size 18 or 20 6th degree dress, if anyone has one they would like to share or sell.

## JUNIORS

## Spring Projects

### To be Announced

Well Spring is coming and with that, yards need to be cleaned up. All those left over leaves, branches, and other scraps that have blown into the yard over the fall and winter have to be taken care of before getting the lawn mowers out when the grass starts growing again.

As a group of Junior Grangers, why not choose a Subordinate member or two and ask if they can help them out by cleaning up their yards. I bet it would be greatly appreciated. Besides helping someone else, you are performing a super community service project. Be sure to take pictures and have someone write up an article for the paper so you get even more credit for doing something nice for someone else.

Easter is just around the corner...maybe your Juniors could gather at the Grange hall and make some special Easter cookies or cupcakes and fix up plates and deliver them to some of the older Subordinate members to let them know that they are being thought of. I know a project like this has been done in the past here in Michigan and I have heard some great compliments given.

Little things such as these ideas are great ways of getting your group together, working together, doing community service together and also helping others at the same time.

## Some Easter Crafts for Kids

### Easter Bunny Ears

Items needed: paper, tape and scissors

- Make a strip of paper long enough to go around the child's head (you may need to tape two pieces end to end to get it long enough. You can make it thin or thicker. (The thicker ones don't tear easily and ride a bit higher on the head like a crown)
- Print, color and cut out the ears.
- Tape the ears onto the strip.
- Optional: Decorate the strip with stickers, markers, etc.
- Tape the strip into a loop to fit the head.

### CD Bunny Face

Items needed: 1 old CD-ROM (no good) Make sure you ask an adult before you start painting CD's, white paint, magic marker (black)

- Paint CD white
- Glue on ears, eyes, nose and mouth
- Give the bunny freckles with a magic marker.

## Earth Day is coming soon also: Here is a craft to make in honor of this special day

Items needed: paper, scissors, glue or stapler, white ribbon, scrap paper, optional: markers or crayons.

- Fold a white piece of paper in half and cut out a cloud shape.
- Staple three sides of the cloud together and leave the fourth side open like a pocket
- Hole punch a few holes in one end and tie some ribbon into the holes to hang out like streamers.
- Use shredded paper to stuff the cloud and then staple or glue the opening shut.

## Remembering

Viola Thompson  
Lime Creek Grange #712

Barbara Kelley  
Capitol Grange #540

Ruby Yeutter  
Rome Grange #293

Paul Raynard  
Pickford Grange #1775

## ADDRESS CORRECTION FORM

Grange Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR Name: \_\_\_\_\_

OLD Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NEW Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please use this form to send to notify us. The USPS charges the Michigan State Grange 50 cents for each correction. Thank you!

Mail to:

Michigan State Grange, 404 S. Oak Street, Duraud, MI 48429 or email the information to msgrange1873@yahoo.com or call 989-288-4546.

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

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

As April 15 draws near and filing your income tax becomes the task at hand, you may be wishing you made a few more tax deductible donations this past year. While we can't help you out with last year we can help you for 2011. Making a donation to the Michigan State Grange Foundation not only helps you out when filing your tax returns, it provides much needed support for the programs funded from within the Foundation.

The Student Loan program is probably the largest benefit utilized by our members. This program is for all ages looking to further their education. The Foundation also supports the educational and charitable departments of the Michigan State Grange.

So please consider making a donation today to the Michigan State Grange Foundation. It can be a memorial, living memorial, or general donation. The donation can be earmarked for a certain purpose or can become part of the endowment funds.

If a loved one passes, please consider including the Michigan State Grange Foundation as a recipient of memorial contributions.

Whatever the purpose or whatever the reason, please send your donation today!! Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Michigan State Grange Foundation.

*Jeffrey A. Swainston, Sec/Treas.  
Michigan State Grange Foundation*

Recently, I was contacted by an independent firm doing outreach work in Michigan to groups that may be impacted by the new Medicare Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), an entity created under the health care reform law to cut Medicare spending. An interesting mix of organizations - including physician, nurses, hospital, patient advocacy, senior and other groups - are speaking out about IPAB.

Because of IPAB's potential negative impact on access to health care in rural areas, they thought it was an issue the Michigan State Grange may have an interest in.

IPAB will have the power to make cost-cutting decisions about Medicare with little oversight and no means for seniors or their doctors to challenge its decisions. In its efforts to control Medicare spending, IPAB likely will end up limiting access to specialist doctors, treatments and drugs - one of their first cost-cutting moves is likely to be cutting fees for physicians. Many doctors groups worry that they will no longer be able to afford to see as many Medicare patients because of these potential cost cuts.

Bipartisan legislation is now in the U.S. House to deal with this issue. It's unclear where the U.S. Senate stands.

I will continue to research the information provided about this issue and getting involved with the Michigan coalition that is trying to educate our congressional delegation about this issue. Maybe I can get educated

### **David T. Sanderson, Chief Administrator, Michigan School for the Deaf is Retiring**

*The following letter was received by the Granges that participated in the Adopt-A-Child Program this past year. I felt it would be great for all Granges to hear what he had to say:*

Dear Members of the Michigan State Grange,

On behalf of all of our students at the Michigan School for the Deaf, I would like to say "THANK YOU VERY MUCH" for all you do for them. You have given our students Christmas gifts, hosted an annual Christmas party, purchasing pizza, bringing desserts and pop with you, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, (many of which members have made by hand), some of you driving MANY miles just to bring them to our students, sending birthday gifts, dictionaries, school supplies, paper products, annually sponsoring a graduating senior with a scholarship to assist them in college, etc. etc., for many years, just for our students.

You have so many wonderful people in your organization, you go above and beyond for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, just to make sure our students "don't go without," which many of them would have without your generosity.

I have enjoyed the parties for the last five years, and it has been a great honor to read the Christmas stories to the children while they anxiously await the party and gifts you have brought for them.

There are no words that can convey the gratitude and respect I have for the members of the Michigan State Grange and your continued support of the children at the Michigan School for the Deaf. I am confident the next Chief Administrator will be equally grateful to the Michigan State Grange and its members.

Again THANK YOU for caring for and sharing with our students.

Sincerely, David T. Sanderson, Chief Administrator

***"We wish David a Very Happy Retirement"***

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

## !!!!!! SPRING IS COMING !!!!!!!

We've all been wanting SPRING to come, and now that it's here, many of us will be getting ready to do this, SPRING CLEANING. "YUCK"

To make this spring job a little more pleasurable, our news paper put these tips in the paper. I thought they

might help some of us  
to get through this  
most pleasurable task!

DO IT YOURSELF

HERBAL  
CLEANING  
RECIPES



Try making your own "green" cleaners using ingredients like essential oils and spices, which clean well and leave a more natural scent.

**AROMATIC SINK SCRUB:** Mix in a blender; a 1/4 cup mint leaves; one cup baking soda and 1 TBLS salt. Sprinkle it into your sink, add a little water, and scrub.

**HERBAL WINDOW CLEANER:** Mix together in a spray bottle 2 cups strained lemon balm decoction and 1/2 cup vinegar. Spray windows then wipe dry with old newspaper or a soft cloth.

**SPICY ROOM DEODORIZER:** Simmer a mixture of cinnamon sticks and orange peels in water over the stove. While it does not clean anything, it is a natural way to fill the house with a delightful smell and would come in handy in place of a chemical deodorizer.

**HERBAL DIY DRYER SHEETS:** You can add a drop or two of your favorite essential oil to a cloth and then throw it in the dryer with your clothes—it will make your laundry smell amazing and is much more Earth-friendly than scented dryer sheets.

**FRESH AND NON-TOXIC ALL PURPOSE CLEANER:** Fill a quart-to half gallon size glass jar with citrus peels. This doesn't need to be done all at once. Just whenever you eat citrus, put the peel in the jar. When the jar is sufficiently full, pour vinegar over the peels to cover. **OPTIONAL:** Compress the peels first so less vinegar is used. Let the mix sit for at least 2 and 1/2 weeks. The vinegar will take on an orange/golden hue and smell powerfully of citrus. Fill half a spray bottle with citrus-vinegar. Straining as you pour. Fill the rest with water. Use with a rag to clean anything! It works well on sinks, mirrors, windows, floors, wooden chairs, and counters. Best of all, this is made with citrus peels you'd otherwise be throwing out.

You can go to [www.pennilessparenting.com](http://www.pennilessparenting.com) for more "green" homemade all-purpose cleaners.

**Reminder to GLGLC attendees:** Don't forget to bring a wrapped white elephant item

**Also this year** we are asked to bring items for (CHOI) Children's Hospital of Illinois — art supplies, marker sets, puff fabric paints, watercolors, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, word search, hair accessories, journals, stationary, photo albums, nail polish, lip gloss, chap stick, plain white socks or hand held mirrors.

## \*\*\*\*BERRIES\*\*\*\*BERRIES\*\*\*\*BERRIES\*\*\*\*

Powerhouses, whether eaten fresh, frozen, dried, freeze-dried or powdered. But, can they protect our brain and memory, melt fat and prevent urinary tract infections?

**BLUEBERRIES: What we know:** One of the few naturally blue-hued foods humans eat, blueberries are packed with antioxidant power, which comes from high levels of anthocyanins, a type of flavonoid or plant compound. They also contain significant amounts of micronutrients and fiber.

**EMERGING RESEARCH:** Blueberries have been shown to improve insulin sensitivity in overweight men and women, and lower blood pressure levels in pre-diabetic men and women without raising blood sugar. Berries also have anti-inflammatory effects and may be a memory-protecting food.

**RASPBERRIES: What's inside:** A high-fiber powerhouse, raspberries also have calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, Vit C and bone-building Vit K. They also are a good source of B Vit, including folic acid and niacin.

**EMERGING RESEARCH:** Raspberries have higher levels of ellagic acid than strawberries; ellagic acid has been shown to be a powerful antioxidant and toxic to cancer cells. They may also be a natural treatment for arthritis, due to their high anthocyanin content.

**CRANBERRIES: What's inside:** A close relative of the blueberry, cranberries have the same blue-red anthocyanin flavonoids. The tart, red berry is an excellent source of Vit C and fiber, as well as a good source of manganese and copper.

**EMERGING RESEARCH:** The compounds in cranberries called "proanthocyanidins" may prevent bacteria, such as E.coli, from clinging to the walls of the urinary tract and causing infection.

**STRAWBERRIES: What's inside:** The only fruit to flaunt its seeds on the outside, strawberries are an excellent source of Vit C and K, dietary fiber, flavonoids and the plant compound ellagic acid. They also contain calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and potassium.

**EMERGING RESEARCH:** Strawberries are also potent antioxidants and have been shown to reduce cardiovascular risk factors in several animal and human studies, such as elevated blood pressure, hyperglycemia and inflammation.

**ACAI BERRIES: What's inside:** The round, purple-black fruit, which tastes like a blend of berries and slightly bitter chocolate, is packed with antioxidants, essential fatty acids and fiber. It also contains iron, calcium fiber and heart-healthy fats.

**EMERGING RESEARCH:** The antioxidant power depends on how the berry is eaten. Straight acai has the most nutrients, but it's not available in the U.S. Some cosmetics and beauty products contain acai oil on the ingredient list, but there's no evidence of health benefits. I was able to find blueberry juice with acai juice added by Ocean Spray Juice Co. at one of our dollar stores and Meijers. Hope to find some more, it was quite good!

*This article was also taken from our news paper, the Lansing State Journal.*



## Legislative Fly-In

Come join us in Washington, D.C. as we meet with our Congressional Delegations and advocate for a stronger rural America on May 22-24. The National Grange will continue carrying the torch of celebrating our citizenship by planning meetings with attending Grangers and their National representatives, as well as hosting expert-lead briefings on current legislative issues facing our Congress.

Attendees will be treated to a VIP Tour of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens in Alexandria, VA. Although primarily recognized for being our first President and Father of our Country, what George Washington enjoyed most was farming and animal husbandry, which is evident in every plant and animal on his estate and can be traced back to the original seed and livestock.

Thought leaders in the fields of healthcare will give a very in-depth briefing on the effects that the Affordable Care Act is having now, and will have in the future on Medicare and access. Innovation experts from AT&T will present the latest ways broadband is changing how medical information is collected and protected, as well as introducing new products which can assist a patient in taking their medications regularly or even in dropping U.S. infant mortality rates.

Come let your voice and the voice of your local communities be heard here in Washington.

## E-Membership

What is E-Membership? I'm glad you asked. E-Membership is a new class of membership that keeps you informed of legislative work from a non-partisan point of view as well as keeping you up with the latest achievements of the Grange. E-Membership gives you access to many of the quality financial benefits that Grange members have traditionally enjoyed. It also gives you the opportunity of being an important part of America's oldest family based organization.

Sign up today for a 1-year membership for the low price of \$12 and start receiving discounts on car rentals, hotel accommodations, prescription drug coverage and so much more.

Sign up today for E-membership and stay in touch with what the National Grange is doing across the nation.

Receive: Newsletters directly to your email; Member Benefits/Services; Information on a variety of issues; And so much more.

Receive several publications such as the bi-monthly "The New Grange" as well as the highly respected monthly legislative newsletter "View from the Hill".

Both publications are filled with information about the Grange and its contributions to America.

Registered E-Members will have access to a number of Grange benefits including: US Pharmacy Card, LTC Financial Partnerships, Platinum Plus Credit Card, Allied Moving, Enterprize Rent-A-Car, Prescription Drug Coverage, Medical Air Services, T-Mobile Discounts, Grange Insurance, Hertz Rent a Car, Beltone Hearing Aids, and more.

## We are Invited to Participate in the Indiana Bus Trip AUGUST 10-13, 2011

The Indiana State Grange presents **FARMERS, RIVERS & LOGGERS**, Minnesota—Wisconsin Bus Trip.

Tour Includes:

A Dinner Cruise aboard the "LaCrosse Queen" on the Mississippi River.

A visit to Pleasuring Seasonings, LaCrosse, WI for a Cooking Demonstration.

Travel along the Scenic Mississippi River Road between LaCrosse & Red Wing, MN

A tour of the Red Wing Shoe Factory

See the World's largest Boot size 628 1/2.

An evening visit to the Mall of America, Bloomington, MN

A visit to The Kelley Farm, founder of the Grange

See period costumed people working an 1860's farm

A visit to the Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, Eau Claire, WI

See how loggers lived in this museum

A visit to Circus World Museum, Baraboo, WI

**Cost: \$518 per person, double; \$676 Single; \$469 Triple; \$444 Quad**

Deposit of \$50 per person with reservation balance due July 10, 2011

### Tour Meals:

3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners

### Tour Miscellaneous:

3 Nights Quality Lodging

Luggage handling, 1 pc.

Travel via Motorcoach

Escorted by S&S Travel, Inc.

**Make checks payable to & mail to: Send Name, address, City, State, Zip, Phone and smoking/Non-smoking preference  
S & S Travel, Inc., 1404 E. Lake Bluff Drive, Kendallville, IN 46755, Tel: 888-262-4423**

**For more information contact: Gordon Groves, 16105 CR 22, Goshen, IN 46528 Phone: 574-535-3251**