



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XVII NO. 3

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MARCH, 2011



Michigan State Grange 50/50 Raffle Drawing

Burns Grange, Shiawassee County

Come enjoy a chicken dinner and stick around to see if you are a winner!

For ticket information: contact Chris Johnston

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

See contact information on page 11

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

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www.michiganstategrange.org



MGN Delivery

This is the first issue of the Michigan Grange News being partially delivered by email. Since we are anticipating a few issues with the ability of some people to be able to download the Grange News electronically, I would appreciate those of you who still get the hard copy to share it with the others if they are not able to download it. When any problems occur please let us know immediately so that changes can be made in our attempt to make the Grange news available to everyone that wants it.

Officers Meeting

Between the time of writing this article and the publication of this issue, the officers and department directors of the Michigan State Grange will have had their annual meeting to discuss upcoming events around the state and to discuss ways for us, as the leaders of the organization, to better serve you and the people in the communities that our Granges serve.

Planning for our future

March is a time of year for planning your events for the upcoming spring and summer months. As in the ritual of the first degree, we are prepping the land and planting the seed that will grow and prosper into our bountiful harvest of the fall. In our sense, we can make plans (planting the seeds) for the summer (growing) then reap the harvest in the fall. This may be a good time to review the ritual of the first four degrees. Maybe even plan at one of your meetings in the spring to have the officers read through the parts in the manual for the first degree. Then in the summer do the same for the second degree, and so on. This works well for a literary program at a meeting four times a year. There are lessons in each of the several degrees that can teach us to prosper our Granges and grow our communities.

We can also use this time of year to form car pools to the various conferences throughout the year. I am almost certain that we will be announcing soon the locations and dates of the spring department conferences.

Grange Growth Summit

The Grange Growth Summit, May 13-15th, will be held at Community Grange near Niles, Michigan. Rooms are available at Baymont Inn and Suites in Dowagiac just six miles from Community Grange. The registration forms are now available through the National Grange website www.nationalgrange.org. The room rates are set for \$69.00 per night, based on a single king size bed or two double beds per room plus 6% tax. The rooms are blocked under the "National Grange". Please reserve your rooms by April

29th. After that date, the rooms will cost the regular price. The phone number for the Baymont Inn and Suites in Dowagiac is (269) 782-4270. The registration fee for the summit is \$42.00 per person and will include the information packets and two meals, Saturday lunch and dinner.

Grange Month

April is right around the corner and is also Grange month, as proclaimed by Ed Luttrell, Master of the National Grange. Grange month is the time that we, as Grange members, really strive to advertise ourselves and recognize the members and people in our communities for the things they do for the betterment of the community. This is also a time to reflect on the past and again start planning for the future.

This is also a perfect opportunity to open our halls or meeting places to anyone that has ever been interested in knowing what we do inside our halls. Again, plant the seed to growing the Grange.

Long Term Care Program

There is a new program in the works through National Grange that I have been contacted about only in the last couple of days. The program is to offer Long term Care Insurance to Grange members at a special rate.

Something to think about:

Long term care costs:

2010: Average \$75K per year for nursing facility.

30 years in 2045 likely over \$413K a year.

At that time the average 3 year event could exceed \$1.2 million. There will be more to come on this topic as it comes available to me.

Directors needed

I am still in need of a Director for the Junior Grange Department. This needs to be a person that is able and willing to work with the Youth Department on planning not only the program for the Juniors for the next year, but also the summer camp that is held in conjunction with the Youth department. This year, Michigan has switched with Iowa for hosting the Mid-West Regional Youth/Junior Camp. If you feel you are interested or know of someone who might be interested in this position please feel free to let me know.

Also, I am looking for a dedicated individual who is interested in the financial stability and future of the Michigan State Grange in the form of Fundraising. The Executive Committee and I have been acting this year so far as the committee and Chairperson, but I feel that this position needs to be someone without quite as many responsibilities as some of us have.

Benefits of Assistive Listening Systems

Hearing loss is not an all or nothing phenomenon. People with hearing loss are often not completely deaf. Ordinarily they show varying degrees of hearing loss at varying frequencies in both ears. Although this fact is obvious, its implications are often overlooked for a variety of reasons that include a lack of interest in maximizing hearing by some people who are deaf, and often, a lack of understanding about modern technology that improves auditory skills.

What are ALSSs?

Assistive Listening Systems (ALSSs) are sometimes called Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs). Essentially they are amplifiers that bring sound directly into the ear. They separate the sounds, particularly speech, that a person wants to hear from background noise. They improve what is known as the "speech to noise ratio".

Why Are ALSSs Necessary?

Research indicates that people who are hard of hearing require a volume (signal to noise ratio) increase of about 15 to 25 dB in order to achieve the same level of understanding as people with normal hearing. An ALS allows them to achieve this gain for themselves without making it too loud for everyone else.

Can ALSSs Be Used By Some People Who Are Deaf? – YES!

ALSSs are used by people with all degrees of hearing loss, from mild to profound. This includes hearing aid users and cochlear implantees, as well as consumers who do not use either hearing aids or cochlear implants. Although obtaining a hearing aid or cochlear implant is probably the most important thing a person can do to cope with hearing loss, these hearing instruments have performance limitations and do not work well in all situations. ALDs are sometimes described as "binoculars for the ears" because they "stretch" hearing aids and cochlear implants, thus extending their reach and increasing their effectiveness.

Where Do People Use ALSSs?

ALSSs help address listening challenges in three ways: minimizing background noise; reducing the effect of distance between the sound source and person with hearing loss; and overriding poor acoustics such as echo. People use ALSSs in places of entertainment, employment, and education, as well as for home/personal use.

What Are The Types of ALS?

ALSSs utilize FM, infrared or inductive loop technologies. All three technologies are considered good. Each has advantages and disadvantages.

What Are FM Systems?

FM systems are ALSSs that use radio broadcast technology. They are often used in educational settings and offer mobility and flexibility when used with portable body-worn transmitters. Some newer FM systems utilize miniaturized receivers that fit onto a hearing aid via a listening coupler.

This smaller type of receiver is not available through a catalogue. It must be dispensed by a hearing aid professional and is more expensive than traditional FM systems. It also uses a high frequency making it incompatible with other FM systems.

What Are Infrared Systems?

Infrared systems are ALSSs that utilize light-based technology. They guarantee privacy because light does not pass through walls. They are the appropriate choice for situations such as court proceedings that require confidentiality. They are frequently installed in places of entertainment. They are also frequently designed and marketed for use in television listening.

What Are Inductive Loop Systems?

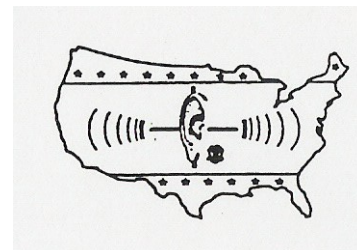
Wide area loop systems utilize an electromagnetic field to deliver sound. They offer convenience to groups of t-coil hearing aid users because those users do not require body worn receivers. Loop systems can be used by non-hearing aid users through use of a headphone and inductive loop receiver.

What Are The Basic Parts of an ALS?

Each ALS has at least three components: a microphone, a transmission technology and a device for receiving the signal and bringing the sound to the ear. This is important to understand in order to troubleshoot problems systematically and to improve a system's effectiveness.

When Do I Need to Obtain Assistance from a Sound Contractor?

Sometimes users stretch a limited system too far by using products ordered from consumer catalogues. Group set-ups are frequently complex enough to justify hiring a professional sound contractor to sell and install a system. This is especially true when multiple microphones are needed, for example in large meetings of 10 or more people. In this case, a mic mixer is indicated. An automatic microphone mixer turns microphones up and down when an individual speaks so that the "closed" microphones do not detract from the "open" microphone's signal quality.



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This is the first issue in the new Email version of the Grange News. Thank you to all that are able and willing to view this on line. Some will print this to distribute to fellow members that can't view it via Email and again we say Thank you. A Thank you also needs to be shared to those who are still willing to get the mailed version because they too have an interest in reading the articles that are written. There seems to be a solution for everyone and it is friendly to our budget as well. Thank you to all.

The Community Service Report has about 130 days until it is due. The entries that Michigan sent to compete at our National Session for the past two years have placed in the top 4. If you aspire to get your community work recognized at the State and National level, then let this be the incentive to begin planning the way you intend to present your community work.

Taking pictures that can tell a story with a simple caption is very effective. If there is a photo of a Red Cross banner and photo of a person actually giving blood, your project has immediate recognition.

The photos of the cider press in action, the ice cream maker complete with ice and salt, the grill with cooking food, the sink filled with dirty dishes and dish pan hands, the Grange hall filled with smiling and laughing faces, the Grange driveway filled with cars, all these pictures will tell a great story.

Include the headlines from newspaper articles you have had published, design short captions and bullet points that accompany the photos as well as the detailed descriptions on your program or project.

There isn't one recipe for success on how to put together an award winning entry. The main idea is to showcase what you want to tell, in a manner that you prefer. After all, this will be your Grange story for 2010/2011.

So get the pictures developed, look through a magazine at the grocery check out counter and see how they have put together a page you find pleasing. Steal their idea if you want to. Seriously, it's ok to spend time looking at the scrap booking brochures and magazines. Buy one or two if you need their idea for reference. You can duplicate their idea and put your own touch to it. After all, you were clever enough to make a difference in your community, telling what you did and why you did it should be the easy part.

Don't forget that the person that will judge your entry has no idea what you've done or why. So the who, what, when, where, why and how are very important. Just remember to keep it simple. If possible, the captions should be typed, or neatly hand written. The photos need to be current. If your camera battery died and the pictures have 2007 printed on them, crop the pictures so more than the expired date gets reviewed. The two Granges that represented Michigan at the past two National Grange Conventions competed against more than 2300 Granges across our great country. Your community work is equally amazing as theirs. Be proud of what you've accomplished. And in case you didn't know, we're very proud of you.

In Faith, In Hope, In Charity and In Fidelity,

The Sue and Mary Show

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

It's number crunching time once again for the State of Michigan. Governor Rick Snyder recently presented to the Legislature his 2012 executive budget and a 2013 projected budget that brings state spending into line without any one-time funding fixes and creates a tax system that is simple, fair and efficient for both businesses and citizens.

I looked for and found a copy of the proposed budget at www.michigan.gov/budget and it's a mere 156 page document. Some of the information I will include in this column was excerpts of the governor's presentation and analysts interpretation of the proposed budget.

"This is a comprehensive plan to lay a new, sound foundation for Michigan's reinvention and put an end to the significant budget deficits that state has experienced for the past decade," Snyder said. "It reflects difficult but necessary decisions that will result in a shared sacrifice, but ultimately will benefit citizens, families and communities through the economic growth and job creation that is generated. By stimulating the economy while preserving core, essential services and ensuring a safety net for those who are vulnerable, we'll all move forward together."

The Snyder plan restructures Michigan's tax system, which includes the promised elimination of the Michigan Business Tax, to be replaced with a flat Corporate Income Tax set at 6 percent. The plan includes the scheduled reduction in the individual income tax rate from 4.35 percent to 4.25 percent. Because Michigan is one of only three states in the nation that exempts most or all of earned pension income, Snyder's plan will broaden the base of taxpayers by including those earning private and public pensions. In addition, the plan eliminates all credits and deductions related to the individual income tax with the exception of the personal exemption, homestead property tax credit and other minor subtractions.

"This plan allows Michigan to emerge as a stronger, more vibrant state," Calley added. "Our commitment to truth in budgeting requires the state to live within its means. This is the course correction that is needed to help businesses succeed and ensure that our citizens will have good-paying jobs. We are sending a loud message that Michigan is open, fair and stable for business."

Highlights of the recommended budget include:

- ◆ The creation of a State Education Act that uses State School Aid Fund revenue as well as General Fund dollars to support the state's education system all the way through to higher education, while protecting community college funding.
- ◆ Medicaid eligibility is maintained and provider reimbursement rates are supported without reductions to preserve health care and access for those most vulnerable.

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Home Grange In The Spotlight

Tuesday February 8th., was a work day at Home Grange #129. Twice a month members spend the better part of the day cleaning, doing maintenance, repairing flags, and working on quilts. On that particular day Peggy, Sharon, and I went to visit and work. Card tables were set up in the main room for everyone to have their own baby quilt to work on. Richard Winter makes all of the tops. The rest of the group help with layering the pieces, tying, and finishing the edges. A very large stretcher



frame was waiting for a full size quilt to be laid on it. The three layers were positioned on it. Eunice, John, Sharon, and I pinned the edges. Roland, Eunice, and John did the majority of the work. After Sharon was done with her quilt she helped tie the last few squares with her perfect knots. We worked on quilts, quilts, and more quilts. Martha



was hoping to show us how to repair a flag, however the one they had was beyond help. We visited, had lunch together, and became pretty good at tying quilts. We left with sore fingers, a few minor pin pricks, and our hearts filled with love and friendship. Home Grange makes hundreds of quilts for different agencies in their area. Your light is shining brightly, hats off to all of you. Thanks Martha, Wanda, Bernadine, John, Eunice, and Roland for letting us join you, it was a great day.

Will your Grange be next in the spotlight? Let me know what's happening, I may pop in for a visit.

(Pictured above: Peggy Johnston, Wanda Katz, Sharon Popler, Bernadine Bishop, Judy Bowers.

Top right: John & Eunice Bauserman, Sharon Popler, Roland Winter.

Bottom right: Martha Laupp)



SPRING!

What a magical season, it brings flowers, trees budding, birds returning, sheets on the clothesline, and the start of gardening. I can hardly wait for fresh salad greens and herbs. Herbs are fun to plant and use. Plant in containers, or in the garden. Here's a few to try.

Annuals and Biennials: Sweet Basil, Dill, Parsley, Summer Savory.

Tender Perennials-perennials but not hardy in our harsh winters Rosemary, Sweet Marjoram, Lemon Verbena, Bay **Perennials** Fennel, Oregano, Chives, Garden Sage, Thyme, French Tarragon, Mint, and English Lavender.

Check with your local greenhouse, herb farm, or even chain stores. have fun planting, preserving, and using herbs. Visit an herb farm, perhaps they will offer classes, tours, or even a tea. Our local Grand Oak Herb Farm in Bancroft is a great place to visit. How I wish we could all go there for a class or one of their special teas they put on.

Till next month, Judy

Pumpkin Pie

First Place Winner—Baking Contest (Women) 2010
Alex Swainston

1 2/3 C Flour	1 C. Packed Brown Sugar
1 tsp. baking soda	1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp. Fresh Ground Ginger	1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	1/2 C water
1/3 C vegetable Oil	1 tsp. vinegar
1/2 canned pumpkin	

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour, brown sugar, baking soda, salt and spices. Add water, oil, vinegar, and pumpkin to dry ingredients. Mix well. Pour into greased square pan 8 x 8 x 2 inches. Bake until pick o fork comes out clean (about 35-40 minutes) Sprinkle with powdered sugar if desired. For a bundt cake, double the recipe.



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

I recently participated in a National Grange Leadership Conference through TeamSpeak, held over the Internet. Since some of you may not have this capability, I decided to report to you this month and next regarding the discussions. The conference was entitled, "The Importance of Recruiting New Members and How to Do It" and was led by our Worthy National Master Ed Luttrell. There were participants from Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Kansas, New York, Maine, New Hampshire and Alaska which allowed for a nice exchange of ideas.

The first part of the conference was a discussion of why we should **recruit new members** into the Grange. As presented by the National Master, there are four distinct reasons. I recommend that your Grange pick one of these reasons, and find ways to implement it in your own way in your local Grange. Next month, I will report on the "How to Do it" portion of the conference.

The first reason to recruit new members is to assure that your Grange has an **outreach aspect within your community**. No Grange should be the "best kept secret" in the community. The idea here is that in your dealings and conversations with people in your community that all members naturally talk about the activities of the Grange and how the Grange is moving within your community. The regular publicity that you do in local newspapers is also a key to this reason. Making sure that your special Lecturer's programs are publicized also lets the community know what kinds of things happen in the local Grange.

The second reason to recruit new members is to **infuse into your Grange new ideas, new energy and new enthusiasm**. Of course, this reason can only be played out if the current Grange members are open to new ideas and welcome the potential for new activities to the Grange. This is one of the areas where, in my experience, we current members need to continue to think about how to do this more effectively.

The third reason is to **create a mode of inclusion and expansion** at your Grange. This changes the focus of your Grange to an attitude of thinking about who does what at the Grange. Duties for various activities of

the Grange could and should be changed regularly. Members who have held certain responsibilities for a long period of time can be mentors/guides or co-workers with other members, which can lighten the load for those in the Grange who have worked so diligently for many years. This may take some out of their comfort zone, but can lead to a whole different approach to doing many things. Do you really need to do it the way you've done it for 20 years?

The fourth reason is for the Grange to continue **one of Grange's original purposes** – that of **development/teaching mode**. This reason is closely tied to the previous one. The leaders of the local Grange need to consider, in collaboration with the new or inactive members, ways in which they might like to be involved in the Grange community and what they would like to learn to do. This could include discussion of where their experience and skills are. This is another area where the Lecturer can be involved, because one way members can develop their skills is in participating in the Lecturer's program. This might be in reading something, leading a discussion about a particular issue in the community, performing music, or any number of other things. This reason assures that we have a Grange that works across the generations and across the broad interests of the individual Grange. One thing to keep in mind is that when people are learning new ideas and ways of leading various activities, that they may need some guidance along the way, so Grange leadership needs to be careful not to "dump" a large project on a new member, and just say "Do it!" Once again, back to the idea of mentoring people as they learn new skills.

Be
tive!
Pro-
the



Posi-
mote

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

Michigan Horticulture Ranks 5th in the Nation

The Horticulture Industry in Michigan is a “growing” business according to Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Keith Creagh. In a news release that appeared in local newspapers around my area, Michigan’s horticulture industry ranks fifth in the U.S. for gross sales of horticulture crops with \$566 million in sales in 2009. Director Creagh was quoted in the article that “Michigan’s horticulture industry is strong in both wholesale and retail sales of our products. The sale of our horticulture products on a national level helps bring money into Michigan’s economy and supports our local communities.

In addition to the national ranking for gross sales; Michigan ranks second nationally in retail sales with \$108 million and fifth nationally in wholesale sales with \$459 million. Michigan also ranks first in the nation in the production of begonia baskets, Easter lily pots, cut geraniums, geranium seeds, hostas, petunia baskets, New Guinea impatiens baskets and impatiens in both flats and baskets. This information was obtained from the recently released 2009 Census of Horticulture which was done by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The Census found that Michigan has 1, 089 horticulture operations statewide which grow annual bedding and garden plants, herbaceous perennial plants, potted flowering plants, propagative materials, transplants for commercial vegetable production, cut Christmas trees, foliage plants and food crops grown under protection.

Not only are you beautifying your lawns and gardens when you buy and plant flowers, trees, and shrubs but you are also helping your local community’s economy by supporting the local growers and retailers. In turn, this helps our State economy to “grow” as well. So, when you are sitting at your kitchen table in the next few weeks making your plans for your vegetable and flower gardens for this summer, keep in mind what you can plant from local growers in your area. A few more tomato plants or marigolds that you plant not only produce more fruit for you to harvest and preserve or will give your yard more color, they also will in turn give that local grower more income. The local grower can in turn use this increase in income to maybe hire another employee or two because of the increase in customer spending. As we all know this is a huge snowball effect and each one of us can and should do our part to help “grow” our local and State economy by buying locally from our Agricultural and Horticultural neighbors.



Welcome New Members!!

Marissa Squires, Home Grange #129

Sgt. Bradley G. Skidmore, Home Grange #129

Legislation — continued from page 5

- ◆ A Medicaid budget that is funded at \$11.2 billion, reflecting the institution of a new 1 percent health care insurance assessment on all paid health care and dental insurance claims.
- ◆ The preservation of over \$1.4 billion in funding for programs that assist nearly 55,000 special education students, as well as \$1.2 billion for core education programs such as services for academically at-risk students and adult education.
- ◆ Protection of student financial aid at fiscal year 2011 levels (\$51.5 million) while creating the Pathway to Higher Education grant, to be awarded to needy qualifying students at public or private schools.
- ◆ An elimination of statutory revenue sharing payments for cities, villages and townships in fiscal year 2012 to be replaced with a new incentive-based revenue sharing program available to cities, villages and townships that meet state standards and adopt best practices. A 4-percent increase for total of \$659 million for constitutional revenue sharing payments to local units of government.
- ◆ Dedication of \$2.6 billion in both 2012 and 2013 to state and local bridge construction and maintenance projects.
- ◆ A lifetime limit of 48 months with exemptions for incapacity and hardship for families receiving cash assistance through the Department of Human Services' Family Independence Program.
- ◆ A restructuring of Department of State Police field services, allowing for the strategic closure of police posts across the state and the consolidation of dispatch centers and forensic laboratories.
- ◆ The creation of the IT Innovation Fund for technology improvements that create savings in state government and the creation of the Quality of Place Fund for the arts and cultural development.
- ◆ Administrative efficiencies in the Department of Corrections, including competitive bidding of food services and the elimination of the public works program.
- The elimination of the dairy farm inspection program within the Department of Agriculture, with that responsibility assumed by industry field representatives certified by the department to ensure food safety and public health.
- ◆ Revenue adjustments and administrative efficiencies in the Department of Environmental Quality, making programs self-supportive relative to the cost of regulation.

Continued on page 10

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

Make a Difference

To be Announced

Making a Difference in your Community

This is the theme this year for the Junior Grange activities and contests. Just think of the things you could do to make a difference in your community. Maybe help to plant flowers along Main Street, pick up trash along the country roads, clean up a park or maybe along a river bank (with adult supervision of course). There are so many things that a Junior Grange could do to “Make a Difference in your Community.”

This years story writing contest, which is open to all Junior Grange members, children and grandchildren of Subordinate members is a great way to use your imagination. For all of those children that are eight years old and younger, they can tell it to an adult and have them write it down for them. Those nine to fourteen will write their own. At least one page is required. Please be sure to attach the child's name, address, Grange name and number and age as of January 1, 2011. Judging will be on creativity, originality and the use of the theme. These entries are judged at the State Grange Convention.

Using this same theme, there is a coloring contest. It must be done on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, and again attach all the personal information to the entry. Children are to draw a picture showing what you could do to make a difference in your community. Age groups for this contest are six and under, seven and eight, nine to eleven, and twelve to fourteen. Judging will be on creativity, originality, and use of theme. As the story writing, these will also be judged at the convention in October.

Junior Grange Camp

It's hard to believe that just one of these days it will be time again for the Junior Grange Camp here in Michigan. At this time the dates have not been set yet, but just keep checking back here each month and I am sure it won't be long before plans will be made.

If you have not attended a Junior Grange Camp...this year just might be the time to do it. It's a great way for boys and girls to meet other Junior Grangers from around the state and have a great time doing lots of fun things. So...plan to attend this year.

Kelley Farm Project

The Oliver Hudson Kelley Farm in Elk River, MN, the home of the founder of our Grange order, could use the help of Junior Granges from across the country to help feed the animals at the Kelley Farm. With work horses, oxen, milk cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens to feed every day of the year, all donations large or small, are greatly appreciated and will help with the feed costs a great deal.

Maybe your Junior Grange could plan a fund raiser to help out the Kelley Farm animals. For example, maybe a bake sale, a cookie sale at the Subordinate meeting, a paid spaghetti supper for the Subordinate Grange and the parents, etc.

Work this into the plans of the Junior Grange this year and see what kind of donation you can give the Kelley Farm to help feed the animals.

Remembering

Ida Phelan
Platte Grange #1328

Marion Grutsch
Peninsula Grange #706

Dorothy Senker
Fredonia Grange #1713

Do You Remember the Dog Program that was Given at the State Convention?

We received a thank you from Lori Paradise Grigg, Head Trainer for the Paradise Dog Training. (Assistance & Facility Dogs, Dog Obedience, and Bedbug Sniffing). The dogs showed what they could do for us at the Annual Convention.

The thank you says: *Thank you so much for letting Paradise Dog Training come and give a demo and getting to speak at you wonderful group.*

Ditto made \$245 in her bucket. Thank you. This funding has gone towards Val's dog Ryver.

Again thank you for including us. Lori Grigg.

You might remember the dog that had the sunglasses on and carried the bucket around for donations. He was incognito.

A wonderful and interesting program.

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

Consistent with the Michigan State Grange Foundation's mission to support education, we have an active program for extending interest-free student loans to Grange members. These loans are provided to facilitate that ongoing education of members working toward a degree or certificate, as part of lifetime learning, as well as more traditional collegiate education. Through this program, many Grangers have been given a boost up, toward their education goals. Understanding that the issuance of loans is a key function of the Foundation, the Board has continued to explore options to ensure repayment of these loans, under the terms provided to loan recipients when loans are issued. At present, approximately two-thirds of the outstanding loans associated with the program are past due, and contact with those members is being made, to more actively ensure that repayment occurs. Through this communication, we hope that we will successfully achieve reimbursement to the Foundation's funds, thereby establishing a solid basis for future loans from which our membership can benefit. For those members who have overdue loans taken in their name, we encourage contact with the Foundation Board, so that a repayment schedule can be established.

In addition to our mission to educate, the Foundation also represents an opportunity to memorialize both members and non-members, through donations to either the Endowment Fund or specific purposes. These donations are a key means of growing the potential of the Foundation, but more importantly represent the ability of our Granges and members to appreciate the contributions of those around them. We all know people who make important impacts on ourselves and our communities, and we need to have an outlet like Foundation donations, which allows us to say "thank you" to our friends and family, for all that they do to impact those around them. It is important to remember that this is not limited only to the memorialization of deceased individuals, but also the recognition of our highly respect, living community leaders and treasured family members.

Eric Bishop, Foundation Vice Chairman

**MSG FOUNDATION,
2589 144th Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323**

Please accept my donation to help support the Mission of the Michigan State Grange Foundation.

\$ _____ In Memory of:
For Memory _____ Birthday

Address _____ Anniversary

City/State _____ Zip _____ Deceased

Donations made by: _____ Other

Thank you for your Support!

Legislation continued from page 8

- ◆ Expansion of self-service options within the Department of State.
- ◆ The elimination of six trial court judgeships in the Judiciary budget.
- ◆ Employee concessions to be negotiated with represented employee organizations that result in savings of \$180 million.
- ◆ The elimination of the Michigan Film Credit, to be replaced with a \$25 million grant program recommended for appropriation in the Michigan Strategic Fund budget.
- ◆ Allocation of \$134 million to local governments as grants and loans for environmental cleanup and pollution prevention, including \$25 million for Great Lakes restoration efforts.
- ◆ A total of \$670 million for work force training and development programs.
- ◆ A total of \$340 million for regulatory and consumer protection.
- ◆ A total of \$75 million for the 21st Century Jobs Fund to promote economic development.
- ◆ A total of \$25 million for the Pure Michigan campaign to promote Michigan and enhance tourism.

Whether or not you agree with or support any item within the proposed budget, please get involved. Even if it is only to better understand what is actually being proposed. The Grange is a grassroots organization that in recent years has been very vocal when addressing certain areas in the proposed state budget. In recent years we have had a large voice and have made a difference. Please, before you begin to criticize the proposed budget, read it, and understand it. If you have questions, contact the Representatives and Senators for your district. They want to hear from you... after all, they are the ones that make the final decisions and approve the budget.

Some information in this column was taken from the Michigan Government website.

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, Durand, MI 48429 or email the information to msgrange1873@yahoo.com or call 989-288-4546.

NATIONAL CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (CFS) AWARENESS MONTH

Chronic fatigue syndrome's defining characteristic is a persistent deep fatigue, similar to what other people feel when they're seriously ill or sleep deprived. In people with chronic fatigue syndrome, however, sleep doesn't relieve fatigue as it does in healthy people. People with CFS also have other symptoms, including severe pain, cognitive problems such as memory loss and confusion, and post-exertional malaise. Post-exertional malaise causes intense fatigue, pain and muscle weakness for up to 48 hours following exercise or other forms of exertion.

Things like injury, illness and stress can make symptoms worse. Some people have specific triggers (things that increase symptoms), such as foods or chemicals.

People with CFS also frequently have coexisting conditions, including fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, myofascial pain syndrome and multiple chemical sensitivity.

It's most common in women, but men and children can come down with it as well. More than 1 million people in the U.S. are known to have CFS, but some experts estimate that many people are undiagnosed and that the number is actually much higher. Many people are too disabled to work.

The Social Security Administration does recognize CFS as a potentially disabling condition. However, having a disability claim approved is a long and difficult process that can be complicated by the ambiguous nature of chronic fatigue syndrome symptoms and the lack of a diagnostic test.

If you plan to attend the GLGLC please contact me at the above email, phone or address. Thank you!

DIAGNOSING CFS

So far, no test can accurately diagnose CFS. Doctors do need to rule out numerous conditions with similar symptoms before diagnosing CFS. Diagnostic criteria include unexplained, persistent fatigue that's lasted for at least 6 months, and at least 4 of several other symptoms, including impaired memory or concentration, post-exertional malaise, un-refreshing sleep, muscle pain and others.

WHAT CAUSES CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME?

Researchers don't yet know the exact cause of chronic fatigue syndrome, but many now believe it's triggered by genetic mutations combined with exposure to certain viruses or toxins. CFS is officially classified as a syndrome because it's a collection of signs and symptoms that are known to occur together, but without a known pathology.

TREATING CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME

The FDA has not approved any drugs for CFS. People with CFS sometimes see a massage therapists, chiropractors, physical therapists and other complementary and alternative-medicine practitioners. They may also see a psychiatrist or psychologist to deal with the difficulties of a debilitating condition and possibly for depression. Depression is common in people with CFS, as it is, in debilitating pain conditions overall. CFS, however, is not a psychiatric condition.

Information taken from the Internet
Under Basic Facts on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY
EVERYONE!!**

Leadership Tip of the Month — Lead with Passion

What does “passion” mean to you? John J. Murphy calls passion “the fire within.” Good leaders will have that fire. We will be able to see that fire in the way they work and play in the Grange. Their fires are fed by positive energy created by success, and that success is a product of their passion, sparking fires in others.

To lead with passion, a good leader must be able to courageously cast off fear, doubt, and limiting beliefs. This will allow the leader to give people a sense of hope, optimism, and accomplishment. Think about the great leaders you know or have read about. It’s true; they have given people hope for the future, inspired optimism, and showed measurable accomplishments. So, as the leaders of the Grange, how are we to lead with passion? First, we must believe in the Grange and that others can benefit from the Grange. Second, we must have the desire to work with others and want them to see how great the Grange can be. Last, we must want them to see us as a good example. Leading with Passion is like bringing light in a world of uncertainty and inspiring others to do the same.

I see many Grangers out there that love the Grange and spend countless hours working for the Grange. They never miss a meeting and are first to sign up to help with the next program or project. But they never share that feeling of satisfaction they get with others. They seem to keep the feeling all to themselves. We need to share the feelings we have for the Grange with others and invite them to experience those feelings too. We need to let others see and hear the fire that burns within us so that it might initiate a spark of passion within them!

Distinguished Grange Program

The Distinguished Grange 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 from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The deadline to register as a Distinguished Grange will be August 1, 2011.

Distinguished Granges will be honored at a special reception at 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 application is available from National Grange at 1-888-447-2643 ext. 109 or www.nationalgrange.org under program resources. mail the completed application to National Grange, Distinguished Grange Program, 1616 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. All applications must be received by August 1, 2011 for consideration.

Do You Know the Warning Signs of Fraud?

Warning Signs

- ◆ Sounds too good to be true.
- ◆ Pressures you to act “right away.”
- ◆ Guarantees success
- ◆ Promises unusually high returns
- ◆ Requires an upfront investment — even for a “free” prize
- ◆ Buyers want to overpay you for an item and have you send them the difference
- ◆ Doesn’t have the look of a real business
- ◆ Something just doesn’t feel right
- ◆

Play It Safe

- ◆ Never click on a link inside an e-mail to visit a Web site. Type the address into your browser instead.
- ◆ It’s easy for a business to look legitimate online. If you have any doubts, verify the company with the Better Business Bureau.
- ◆ Only 2% of reported identity theft occurs through the mail. Report online fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.
- ◆ Retain your receipts, statements, and packing slips. Re-

view them for accuracy.

- ◆ Shred confidential documents instead of simply discarding them in the trash.
- ◆

Fraud Facts

- ◆ Your bank will never e-mail or call you for your account number.
- ◆ Don’t wire money to people you don’t know.
- ◆ Be cautious of work-at-home job offers.
- ◆ Check out the company with the Better Business Bureau.
- ◆ There are no legitimate jobs that involve reshipping items or financial instruments for your home.
- ◆ Foreign lotteries are illegal in the U.S. You can’t win no matter what they say.
- ◆ Check your monthly bank statements for charges you don’t recognize.
- ◆ Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three national Credit bureaus once a year from annualcreditreport.com.

Be Careful, Be Safe!!

Info from U.S.P.S. brochure