



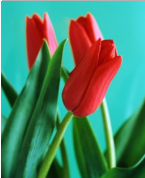
# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XX NO. 2

USPS 345-580

MARCH-APRIL, 2014



## Agriculture and Natural Resources Week

March 1-8, 2014 Michigan State University

The 99th Agriculture and Natural Resources Week will provide a wide variety of topics in areas such as agriculture, horticulture and natural resources. . For more info: [www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu](http://www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu)



## Grange Month 2014

*Ask me about the Grange and how you can join to better yourself, your hometown and our nation.*

### APRIL



**"I never pretended my treehouse was a fort,  
I always imagined it as a GRANGE."**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I now declare April 2014 as Grange Month!

Grange Month is a time to reflect on the achievements of your Grange and the rich heritage of our history. Even more so, it is a time to look forward with optimism and energy to ensure that we enter the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Grange with new members, exciting projects and activities, and boundless enthusiasm. Each member, whether a Granger for a few months or for more than fifty years needs to be part of Grange month this year!

To observe Grange Month, every member should invite a friend or acquaintance to check out your local Grange. I encourage all Granges to open their doors with an open house, similar program, or even a special project to benefit your community. Invite the public into your hall and use that opportunity to share the values and rich benefits of Grange membership and involvement with your hometown neighbors. Our Order needs more good people to become part of our Grange family this year.

The Community Citizen Award program is one way to demonstrate to your community the importance of being involved in relevant issues in your town or area. Let your local newspapers and radio stations know who will receive this prestigious award and when you will honor them.

This packet contains nearly everything you need to make your Grange Month celebration a rousing success! The only item missing is your enthusiasm and smile. Award applications, planning information, order forms, posters and more, it is all here and ready for your use. Take the time to share this information with each member, as each of us should be serving as a Grange ambassador every month, but especially this April.

Americans are searching for organizations with our values and the Grange can offer a structure that opens the doors of opportunity to every new member. Grange members can proudly proclaim that for 146 years we have helped people grow to their full potential, improved life in our community, and made a difference in our State and Nation. American Values are what we can share and the benefits will be to our Hometown Roots.

Fraternally, Ed Luttrell, National Grange President

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Responsibilities Teams	Helpful Hints	2014 Quilt Block Contest	Plant a Garden	Women's History Month	Right to Farm Act/ Farm Bill

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



## Michigan Grange News

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Christopher D. Johnston

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**March 9 Daylight Savings Time**

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

**March 20 First Day of Spring!!!**

**April 14 MSG Executive Committee Meeting**

**April 20 Easter**



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

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10 issues per year June/July & Oct./Nov. are combined.  
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429  
Tel: 989-288-4546  
E-mail msggrange1873@yahoo.com

## Chaplain

## Spring

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

*"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light," Psalm 18:28*

It has been a cold long hard winter and right now I am looking forward to Spring. But as I look back on this winter I have wondered if I have covered the Lamp of God. You might ask what I mean by that. I mean I have not been as open to God calling this winter as I have been in the past. I have not seen the lamp in other people either. People have been mean and nasty to others just because of the cold and bitter cold temps. People we need to uncover that Lamp and let it shine out to others.

I know that once the temps start going up and the snow melts into mud people will be happier due to the fact they knew that spring and summer are almost here. People will start smiling more and helping others with their needs. This poem made me happy and looking forward to spring. I know that the Lamp of God will be shining ever so brightly soon in everything around me.

### Spring!

Spring! How beautiful is the  
Spring! How wonderful is the  
Spring! How majestic is the  
Spring! How fantastic is the  
Spring! How tantalizing is the  
Spring! How glorious is the  
Spring! How melodious is the  
Spring! How joyful is the  
Spring! How breathtaking is the  
Spring! How uplifting is the  
Spring! How happy is the  
Spring! How magnificent is the  
Spring! How colorful is the  
Spring! How tasteful is the  
Spring! How memorable was the  
Spring! How flavorful is the  
Spring! How aromatic is the  
Spring! How sweet is the  
Spring! How beautiful is the  
Spring!

By Alex Fischer

*May these next two months go by fast and may we be the  
Lamp of God to all.*

## Responsibilities

We experience many responsibilities in our daily pursuits, responsibilities to ourselves, to our families, to our jobs, to our country, to our Granges, to our Churches. While we may at times feel overwhelmed by our many responsibilities we know we must still carry on with them. So let's talk about our responsibilities to our Granges and in turn our communities'. By first attending our Grange meetings we plan and act on those plans to make our communities better. Also by attending our meetings we have the responsibility to hold our meeting in proper form, remembering that our dues that we pay to the Grange are the life blood of the organization. While we pay our dues to our Subordinate/Community Granges, we are also paying our dues to the State and National Grange. When we pay our dues to our local Grange we ourselves remain in good standing within our local Grange. When we pay our dues to the State Grange on time we are keeping our Grange in good standing with the State Grange which in turns allows the State Grange to remain in good standing with the National Grange.

With all of that having been said there is going to be some changes to the quarterly reports that our Secretary's file with the State Grange and with the quarterly report forms the State Secretary files with the National Grange. In the next few months your Masters and Secretaries will be learning more about this new procedure. The new forms are going to mainstream the current process, that is somewhat antiquated.

## Teams

In our own Granges we have teams, also known as committees. In our State Grange we have teams that serve as our committees; we also have another team that is our State Grange Officers. Without our teams our many programs would not get accomplished or renewed. Without our officer teams whether they be a Junior, Subordinate, Pomona, or a State Officer team, we would have a hard time having a Grange meeting in regular form. We need to insure that all of our teams are functional in the respect that all who are part of the team are able to work together for a central goal.

So we ask ourselves, are our teams effective, efficient and essential towards our goals? If not how do we go about fixing them or regrouping them to make them effective, efficient, and essential towards our pursuits. Sometime whether we like it or not we have to excuse the entire team and start from scratch. I believe we all need to work towards building teams that can achieve the ability to work not only well amongst themselves but also with the other teams

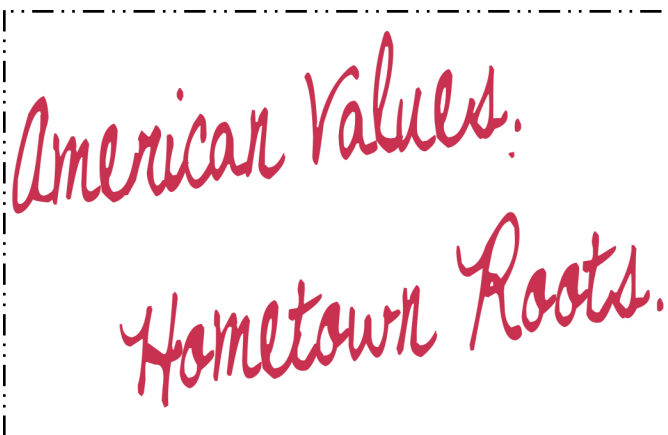
## Fundraising

The Michigan State Grange is once again doing a freezer meat raffle. The tickets will cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5 the drawing will take place at Home Grange#129 during their 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The first prize will be a side of beef the second prize is that of a whole hog. For tickets to buy or sell please contact the Michigan State Grange Secretary at (989)288-4546 or by email at [msgrange1873@yahoo.com](mailto:msgrange1873@yahoo.com)

## Grange Radio

I encourage all of you who have the ability to tune into Grange Radio at [www.luodcity.com/grangeradio](http://www.luodcity.com/grangeradio).

Until next time.....



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



**A very special Thank You needs to be given to Torch Lake Grange for the super donation they gave prior to the Christmas Party at MSD. This money was used (part of it anyway) to purchase the pizzas for the kids. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**



## Helpful Hints for Better Hearing

- ◆ Good light on the speaker
- ◆ Face-to-face interactions are best.
- ◆ Sit close to the speaker.
- ◆ Minimize background distractions—turn off TV or radio, move to a quieter area.
- ◆ Small groups are easier than large groups.
- ◆ Rooms with rugs, curtains, furniture are beneficial to better hearing.
- ◆ Restaurants with tablecloths are best.
- ◆ Use assistive listening devices in auditoriums, theaters, or other public places.
- ◆ Insist on use of microphones when in meetings.
- ◆ Sit in the front of the room when in Grange meetings, or other functions.
- ◆ To help hearing impaired persons understand, don't chew gum. Keep hands, pencils and other items away from face, and don't have a moustache.

## A Hearing Aid Can:

- ◆ Allow a person to hear, and understand speech better in most situations.
- ◆ Help a person hear in certain situations that are difficult or dangerous.
- ◆ Help a person hear the high-pitched sounds of speech.
- ◆ Increase ability to participate more fully in group situations or meetings.
- ◆ Make life more pleasant for the individual with hearing loss, and his/her family and friends.

## Types of Hearing Aids

- ◆ Behind the Ear (BTE)
- ◆ In the Ear (ITE)
- ◆ In the Canal (ITC)
- ◆ Completely in Canal (CIC)

New and more effective hearing aids are produced each year as developing technology becomes available to the hearing aid industry.

## Always time to do a Deaf Awareness Program

I joined a weight loss group awhile back, called TOPS, (Take off Pounds Sensibly). We have a lot of fun with various games and things each week. We are asked if we could do a program on something that interests us that it would be appreciated.

This past week I presented a program on Deaf Awareness, since it is something that is important to the Grange and to me. I have always felt it was a very worthwhile and educational program. So....I asked for some posters from Luanna Swainston, Michigan State Grange Deaf Awareness Director, and I had some other information that I had collected from years past. We discussed the decibel levels on various things and how it can damage the hearing, we talked about the Pledge of Allegiance in Sign Language, and I discussed our participation with the Michigan School for the Deaf. Everyone seemed really interested and several posters were handed out as well as other materials.

I would like to encourage you to make an effort to let the public know of the posters and materials that are available on this subject. *Dale Moore, DA Committee*

## Hearing Loss Quiz

1. T/F Most Deaf Children are born to hearing families.
2. T/F The percentage of accuracy for persons who lip-read is between 30% – 40%.
3. T/F Hearing aids make speech sounds clear and understandable.
4. T/F American Sign Language (ASL) is the universal language used by persons who are Deaf.
5. T/F Michigan law prohibits people who are deaf from driving.
6. T/F People who are Deaf read Braille.
7. T/F A person with partial hearing experiences fewer communication difficulties than a person who is deaf.
8. T/F The term "hearing impaired" implies that one is hard of hearing.
9. T/F A person with a profound hearing loss can still enjoy music.
10. T/F Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing have below average intelligence.

*Answers on Page 10*

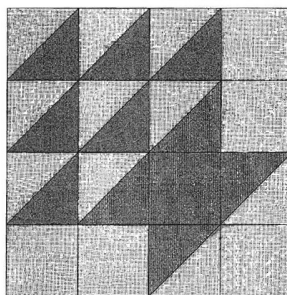
Hello Everyone,

Hope the winter weather isn't being too hard on you. I'm a winter person, however even I would like to see a change in the weather. Walking in the morning in sub-zero weather is a bit much. I love the fresh snow though, how the sun makes it sparkle. Great time for picture taking.

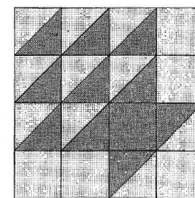
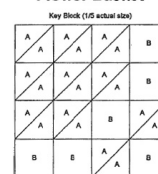
I recently received an update on this year's **quilt block contest**. There are a few changes. The block for this year is the **Flower Basket** design. It must be done in **pastel or spring colors**, the size is **12 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches**. Your Family Activities Chairman has been sent all the information and pattern. Please ask your chairman about this contest. There is even two other items that can go on to national, a **pillow** and a **table runner**.

Start early as the entries must be judged and at national headquarters by **SEPTEMBER 30**. This means I want them **no later than SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**. I will round up a couple judges from my county to do the judging. **THANK YOU** for taking part in this national contest that will benefit the **150th Anniversary of the NATIONAL GRANGE**.

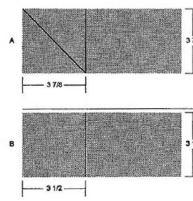
Flower Basket - 12 inch block



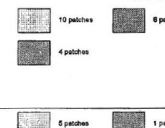
Flower Basket



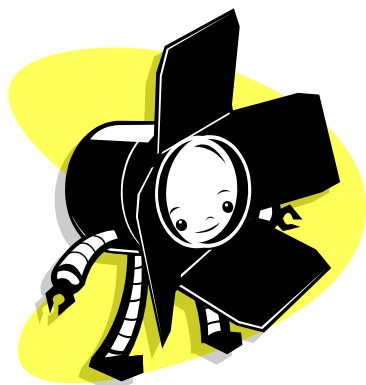
Cutting Diagrams



Patch Count



## WEST OSHTENO # 1630 is in the SPOTLIGHT.



I recently received a note from a couple of members, Lena Belle and Robert Lat-  
tner. They wanted me to know what is going on in their Grange. They say their  
Grange is small however they are making a difference in the lives of their com-  
munity members. They filled a **tree with hats, mitten, and scarves**, that was dis-  
played in their local library. They also recently visited 5 schools and handed out  
**200 dictionaries**. AWESOME JOB! On the 3rd. Friday of every month they  
have a **Community Jam Session**, with music and dancing. Guess I will have to  
forgo my own jamboree and attend theirs sometime. I do love to dance. We don't  
have the dancing. Keep up the great work and thanks for being our star of the  
month.

It's time to start thinking about a **workshop**. I have reserved **Capitol Grange** for  
**May 17, 2014**. Save the date, circle your calendar in red. Will send out information in the next FA bulletin.  
We have some Grangers receiving special honors this year. Perhaps we can have a nice showing of quilt  
squares. If there is a certain subject, craft or so forth you would like to learn or hear about, let me know.

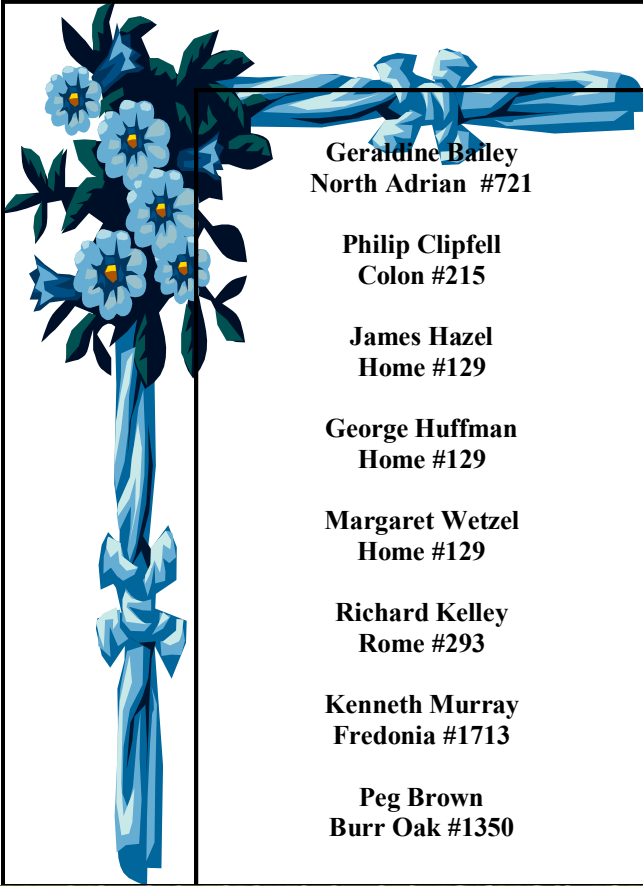
March brings us Ash Wednesday, Daylight Saving Time, St. Patrick's Day, and the First day of Spring. Let's  
hope the snow is gone. **THINK SPRING EVERYONE!** April brings us showers, Palm Sunday, First day of  
Passover, Good Friday, Easter, and the end of my granddaughters ' first year of college.

Take care, and stay busy for the good of the order, Fraternally, Judy

*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."*

*Edith Sitwell*

## *In Memory Of...*



**Geraldine Bailey**  
North Adrian #721

**Philip Clippell**  
Colon #215

**James Hazel**  
Home #129

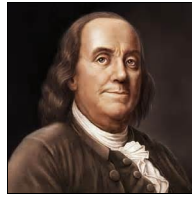
**George Huffman**  
Home #129

**Margaret Wetzel**  
Home #129

**Richard Kelley**  
Rome #293

**Kenneth Murray**  
Fredonia #1713

**Peg Brown**  
Burr Oak #1350



## **Benjamin Franklin Quotes:**

- ◆ Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote.
- ◆ When the people find that they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic.
- ◆ They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither safety nor liberty.
- ◆ God grant that not only the love of liberty but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man may pervade all the nations of the earth, so that a philosopher may set his foot anywhere on its surface and say: This is my country.
- ◆ Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
- ◆ He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.
- ◆ Never confuse motion with action.
- ◆ This will be the best security for maintaining our liberties. A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the religion of ignorance that tyranny begins.
- ◆ Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain and most fools do.
- ◆ Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame.
- ◆ To find out a girl's faults, praise her to her girl friends.
- ◆ Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by the other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature.
- ◆ Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.
- ◆ The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.
- ◆ He's a fool who cannot conceal his wisdom.



**The Voice of American Communities**

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

### **MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS BY EMAIL**

If you are receiving the Michigan Grange News by mail and would just as soon have it by email...please either call/leave a message at 989-288-4546 or email the Michigan State Grange at [msgrange1873@yahoo.com](mailto:msgrange1873@yahoo.com) and let us know. We will do our best to send it to you in that form.

This is one way we can save the Michigan State Grange some money. The Post Office keeps raising the postage price and they don't forget to raise the cost of mailing periodicals either.

Every little bit helps!  
Thank You!

### **Prayers of a Simple Heart**

Let us so live that in all we do  
Our actions mirror love of you.  
In things we do and things we say  
May your love shine through us  
everyday.

As shining waters mirror light  
So may we shine, all clear and bright  
Till all the world lives n Thy command  
To love Thee, God...and fellowman

*By, Jean Hassing, Past Chaplain  
Michigan State Grange*

## Community Service

## Recognition

## FOUNDATION

## Student Loans

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640  
Tel: 989-631-0079 E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net  
Helen Mudd 1757 Stewart Road, Midland, MI 48640  
Tel: 989-631-3708

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

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

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

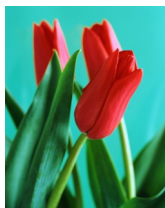
We hope Granges are busy planning and getting projects for the Community Service Program. If you have some new projects and want to share with other Granges, please contact Tricia and she will put them in the Michigan Grange News.

Studley Grange has a difficult time trying to find new projects. We have two members that love to sew. The local cancer group needed heart pillows to give to women that had a mastectomy. We made 51 pillows to donate to them. In our church bulletin, Pregnancy Aid was in need of baby clothing and a Pack-n-Play. We provided these items for them. Look around - it is surprising where you can get an idea for projects!

Remember – Granges that have active members and non members helping in their community service projects are getting their name out in the community. This is very positive and cheap advertising for the Grange!

Wishing you a happy spring!

*Helen and Tricia*



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

During a recent meeting, the Foundation Board reaffirmed our commitment to our student loan program, with the issuance of a new loan to one of our existing recipients. This support of the education and advancement of our membership is representative of our core principle of personal improvement, and also forms a key part of the heritage of the Foundation. The loan program has been utilized by many Grangers, over its history, and we are happy to carry on that tradition for our current members, young and old.

As many of you may know, over the past several years, we’ve struggled to maintain contact with loan recipients and ensure that they’ve made payments against their loans. Through significant effort by our President, Roland Winter, as well as others, we have established contact with the vast majority of our active loan recipients. This has led to the complete repayment of some loans, in addition to installment payments against many others. We continue to seek and maintain communication with these borrowers, so that the loan program can be assured to have sufficient funding for its continued use by our members. We are entirely committed to the continued success of the program, and want to see that it is available to those seeking educational improvement, in the future.

All of this work is part of a several-year effort, during which the Foundation has strengthened many aspects of the student loan program, including the loan agreement terms and requirements, in addition to developing better communication with recipients. This work should position our program for success in the long-term, by providing both the administrative structure and financial resources needed to carry it forward. We appreciate the efforts of all of our members, to support our loan program and help maintain it for future generations.

If you are interested in the requirements or application for receiving a student loan from the Foundation, please see our page on the MSG website. Additionally, you can also find contact information for the Foundation, there.

### MSG FOUNDATION,

Kathryn Strouse, Sec/Treas.

P.O. Box 84

North Star, MI 48862

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
For Memory \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased

Donations made by: \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Thank you for your Support!

Soon (but not soon enough) the snow is going to melt and we will welcome the much awaited spring that many of us have been hoping for! With looking forward to the escape from cabin fever, now is the time to start planning some activities for the Juniors.

There are numerous activities that Juniors can do relating to community service. Maybe plant a flower bed at a nursing home or make some crafts for the residents. How about taking up a collection for the food pantry or even collect pet food for the local humane society? The list can go on and remember to keep track and make a display or do a journal for the Junior Group Activity Award at State Session.

Here is a simple but fun craft you can do with something you have around the house. And why not get a start on some plants for that Grange Garden your Agriculture Director strongly encourages, or maybe have a cute “family” of herbs growing in your window sill.



It's March and I think I can safely say for us all, that we are praying for the snow to stop and warm weather to come. I know we had enough snow for the snowman pictures!! It'll seem like heaven to see the beautiful sunshine, flowers peeking up out of the ground, leaves turning the branches green, birds chirping, crickets chirping, even muddy roads will be such a GREAT sight. I can't remember such a cold, snow filled winter. Thank Heavens it's behind us!! I hope you all fared these last few months well, and with a newness in the air for the coming months.

March: **In like a lion, Out like a lamb.**

**Happy Spring Everyone !!**

## **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

### **How did March come to be Women's History Month?**

March 8, 1911, Europe first celebrated the first International Women's Day. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights was a political hot topic. Winning the vote was a priority of many women's organizations. Women (and men) wrote books on the contributions of women to history. But, with the economic depression of the 1930's which hit on both sides of the Atlantic, and then WWII, women's rights went out of fashion. In the 1959-1960's the boredom and isolation of the middle-class housewife who often gave up intellectual and professional aspirations-the women's movement began to revive. Schools began to host their own Women's History Week programs. In 1978 California began a "Women's History Week" celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with the International Women's Day, March 8th. Three years later, the United States Congress, passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. This recognition encouraged even wider participation in Women's History Week. Schools focused that week on special projects and exhibitions honoring women in history. In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and the U.S. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, with wide support, for Women's History Month. The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history. Honoring women during this month is one way of celebrating this once a year event. Women history isn't just for women, although many women find that studying women's history helps them realize that women's place is everywhere.

*Taken from about.com Women's History Month March:*

With my last bulletin, I sent out **Distinguished Grange** papers. I'm hoping that you'll look at these and find out that it really isn't going to be that hard to do. Most of the items required are things that you probably do already.

**April is National Grange month.** It's a perfect time to honor your **Community Citizen person, Dedicated Worker and your V.I.P.** Have a potluck and invite your honored people in. Send in your V.I.P. to the Community Service Department. Honor your Grange person for all their hard work.

Last but not the least, it's not too late to register for the **GLGL Conference April 11-13th**. If you'd like to come just give me a call. 989-634-5748. The cost is \$100. this year. We're going to Wisconsin. Next year we are in Michigan, so we'll be very busy planning this, starting with getting a place to host it. We have a few in mind. Again if you'd like to come, contact me. *Sharon P.*

## Answers to the Hearing Loss Quiz....page 4

1. True. The majority of deaf children are born to hearing families. While it is estimated that well over half of all cases of childhood deafness stem from a genetic cause, surprisingly, deaf parents are more likely to have hearing children than deaf children.
2. True. The best lip readers, or more accurately, speech readers, only achieve 30 - 40% accuracy. Only about 30–35% of the English language is visible on the lips and many speech sounds look the same on the lips. Take for instance the words: bump, mump, pump, or mad and bad. Say these words in a mirror and you will see that b, m and p all look the same to the speech reader. In addition, many characteristics about a speaker (i.e. mustache, lip movement, rapid speech) interfere with speech reading.
3. False. Hearing aids amplify all sounds. Turning a hearing aid louder may distort sounds causing comprehension of speech to be even more difficult. Many speech sounds may be outside the range of a hard of hearing person's ability to hear them, and thus the person has more difficulty discriminating, or understanding, these sounds. Most hard of hearing people have lost the ability to hear in the high pitch range where consonant sounds are heard. Thus, instead of hearing, "Who you are makes a difference," the hard of hearing person may hear, "ho ou ae aes a ierence," – even when wearing hearing aids. The aid does not give back normal hearing but helps a person to hear speech sounds better. The hard of hearing person is dependent on their hearing aids, speech reading, body language and knowing the topic of the conversation to understand what is being said. The characteristics of the speaker and the speaker's use of communication strategies also influence understanding.
4. False. American Sign Language (ASL) is not universal and not all people who are Deaf use it. Some people who are Deaf choose not to use sign language at all. The sign language agreed upon for use in international settings (like the Deaf Olympics) is based on the use of gestures and is called Gestuno.
5. False. Hearing people sometimes ask if persons who are deaf or hard of hearing can drive and find it difficult to believe they can. Driving requires 99 percent vision. People who are deaf and hard of hearing have proportionately fewer accidents than hearing drivers because they pay attention to the road more. Hearing people turn on their car radio and use cellular phones while driving. When the radio and air conditioner are on and the windows are closed, the hearing person also has difficulty hearing sounds that impact on one's driving ability.
6. False. People who are blind use Braille. Braille is a method of translating written language and symbols into a pattern of raised dots that can be "read" by the fingertips of the person who is blind. While persons who are deaf use their hands to communicate with sign language, most can see to read; blind persons, on the other hand, use their hands to feel Braille patterns, but can generally hear and speak. The exception is those individuals who are both deaf and blind.
7. False. All persons who have a hearing loss frequently experience significant difficulty communicating with other people. The absence of an interpreter, or the use of an unqualified interpreter, results in inadequate communication access for people who use sign language, or no access at all. For a hard of hearing person, hearing only parts of a word makes it difficult to understand communication, even when the message is delivered loud enough for it to be heard.
8. False. Michigan's Special Education Law defines the term, hearing impaired, as referring to all degrees of hearing loss, from mild to profound. Thus, it includes those who are hard of hearing or deaf alike. Most people who are deaf dislike the term 'hearing impaired', believing it promotes a negative image of deaf people as defective and needing to be fixed. People who identify themselves as 'hard of hearing', may use the term 'hearing impaired' interchangeably.
9. True. People with a profound hearing loss often enjoy music. While they may not hear melodies, they can feel the musical vibrations and beats that are heard by people who are hearing. It is becoming increasingly popular for young adults who are deaf to install elaborate stereo systems in their cars and homes that include base boosters and flashing lights that coordinate with the music.
10. False. People who are Deaf or hard of hearing are born with normal intelligence, the same as anyone else. However, there are several factors that may give this impression. Access to information and education may cause a person to appear to have lower intelligence. Hearing people take for granted the amount of information we receive by hearing. Over hearing other people's conversations, radios, and easy access to education provide knowledge with little effort. People with hearing loss either do not receive this incidental information, or must work very hard to get it.

### MEMBERSHIP

### Feel, Felt, Found

Position open

Many times when we ask someone to join the Grange, we are at a loss for words. It is difficult to respond to their objections. Remember the Feel, Felt, Found Method.

"I know how you **feel**. I **felt** the same way myself and I **found** membership in the Grange a great investment."

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### How to knock on doors

You have to be prepared.

1. Appearance and Attitude:
  - A. Remember that you represent the Grange to that person. The impression you leave will be the impression they have of the Grange. Try a positive approach and not a negative one.
  - B. Dress neatly and appropriately — Don't talk to a farmer while wearing a three piece suit.
  - C. Be Yourself!!!!
  - D. Smile and be cheerful and
  - E. TALK POSITIVELY ABOUT THE GRANGE.

Would you join a Grange if the person who asked you was dressed sloppy, talked down about the Grange and was grouchy?

2. Know your Subject:
  - A. Go out in pairs.
  - B. Know what the Grange is, what we do (especially on the local level, and
  - C. Then ask your Grange partner why they joined.

**Try to think about why a person would want to join.**

3. Pick up on Clues —
  - A. The yard...swing set—maybe a family; cows — maybe a farmer, etc.
  - B. Take time for small talk—listen and pick up clues
  - C. Ask questions. Did you make this beautiful wreath on the door?

**Just be sure to: ASK! ASK! ASK!**

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Okay enough with the winter weather already! I hope we got enough winter moisture by now. I think everyone will agree with me that this winter was more like the Michigan winters we used to have during the early 1980s and before. I don't mind getting snow and it not going away but add those polar vortex temperatures... UNCLE!!!

We have seen plenty during the last few months regarding Agriculture in the news spotlight. We finally have a new Farm Bill in place, even if it is a couple of years past due! Thank you to Senator Debbie Stabenow D-Lansing, for her determination to bringing the people together from both sides of the isle to get a Farm Bill in place. It really meant a lot for Michigan and our Ag sector to have President Obama sign the new Bill into law at Michigan State University. I think that speaks highly for what economic support Michigan Agriculture gives to the rest of the United States to have something so special as the signing of a new Farm Bill in our State. Our Ag sector adds more than \$96 billion annually to the economy and supports one in four jobs, the farm law is important to folks in our cities as well. Of course just like any other new bill signed into law, there were things that shouldn't have been in it and there were things that should have been placed in the new law but we have to be thankful Washington finally put one in place.

Another item to watch out for is the Right to Farm Act here in Michigan. I haven't had much time to do any research but the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture is looking to lime the scope of the Right to Farm Act. One thing they are looking to do is to change the Site Selection GAAMPs. I believe, and correct me if I am wrong, this is mainly due to the fact that more and more people are looking to raise chickens and smaller farm animals in urban settings. Because of the Right to Farm Act, people are saying they have the right to raise chickens inside the city limits, etc. The MDA is looking to tighten up loopholes to make people refrain from doing this type of farming in urban settings.

How many people have been looking over the seed catalogs or have even placed orders for their vegetable seeds? It may not look like it right now with all those big piles of snow but we will be getting ready to plant our gardens. I hope we can get some Grange Gardens

planted and growing this year. It would be a great opportunity to for a Grange to work together not only to see what they can grow, but to also possibly use this Grange Garden as a community service project. Donate the harvest from your Garden to a local soup kitchen or food pantry. Or sell it at a local Farmer's Market and use the proceeds to buy Dictionaries! The ideas are endless and I would love to hear from you throughout the year what you have planted and how things are growing.

## Legislative

## Farm Bill

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**There is finally a new Farm Bill.** Officially, the legislation known as the Agriculture Act of 2014, finally passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law by President Obama at Michigan

State University. The final product will provide much-needed relief to American agriculture and the many farmers, ranchers, businesses and consumers who depend on it.

The previous Farm Bill expired in 2012 making the new bill two years overdue. In a press release, National Grange Master Ed Luttrell said the slow process has resulted in an imperfect but acceptable new Farm Bill. "It may be two years passed due, but we're thrilled to finally see a real Farm Bill passed into law. America's farmers and ranchers have had to operate their businesses on guesses and assumptions for the last two years but they are finally getting the stability and predictability that only a strong Farm Bill can provide."

The nearly \$1 trillion bill will fund agricultural and various other programs operated by the USDA through fiscal year 2018. The new Farm Bill saves nearly \$17 billion over a 10-year period, a third of which comes from the Nutrition Title that funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Other changes made by the conference committee are the elimination of the direct payment system and elimination of the Dairy Market Stabilization Program.

## Studley Grange Delivers Dictionaries

Studley Grange #1174 of Midland presented 133 dictionaries to the third graders at Pine River and Floyd Elementary Schools last fall. Pictured are the students from both schools receiving their dictionaries.

The Grange members feel that this is a very worthwhile project. The teachers are very appreciative of receiving these dictionaries and the students are excited about them and read them as books.

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year Studley Grange has donated dictionaries to third graders in the Bullock Creek School District. We have given away over 1,300 dictionaries during this time.



## Pictures from the recent State Master's Conference held at Burns Grange #160



**State Master's Conference Participants:** Front row: Lynette Schaeffer, IL State Master, Connie Johnston, MI; Middle Row: (l-r) Barbara Borderieux, FL State Master & NG Chaplain, Cecelia Luttrell, OR, Sharon Croucher, NY, Nancy Plank, IN, Donna Champion, MN State Master, Linda Brumbaugh, OH; Back Row: (l-r) Phil Prelli CT. NG Exec. Comm., Don Schaeffer, IL, Michael Martin, PA, NG Leadership/Membership Director, Stephen Coye NY State Master, Bruce Croucher, NY, High Priest of Demeter, Joe Fryman, NE NG Exec. Comm., Duane Scott, WI State Master & NG Exec. Comm. John Plank, IN State Master & NG Ass't Steward, Gary Brumbaugh, OH State Master, Chris Johnston, MI State Master & NG Gatekeeper, Ed Luttrell, OR, NG Master. Not pictured, Betsy Huber, PA NG Exec. Comm.



Burns Grange hosts, food preparers & taxi drivers: Judy Bowers, Phyllis Warren, Peggy Johnston, Sharon Popler, & Dale Moore.

A gathering of some of the Grange herd who traveled to Michigan.



Various workshops were presented through the Friday evening to Sunday noon conference.

The NG Executive Committee met on Friday at the Grange hall prior to the conference for their regular meeting.

