



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XX NO. 5

USPS 345-580

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2014

## 141st Michigan State Grange Annual Convention

**October 15-18, 2014**

**Lawton Center**

**www.lawtoncommunitycenter.com**

646 N. Nursery St., Lawton MI 49065

**Session will move for Saturday October 18th to the  
St. Paul United Methodist Church**

63855 Michigan 40, Lawton, MI 49065

Rooms have been blocked at:

**Travelodge**, 111 Ampey Road, Paw Paw

Rooms are \$55.00 per night + tax

269-657-1111 Be sure to tell them you are with the Michigan State Grange

The members of Region #4: Burr Oak #1350, Colon #215, White Pigeon #1345, Sturgis #1490, Community #1675, West Oshtemo #1630 and Fredonia #1713 invite you to attend.

---

### **Reminder — All Report Forms Due September 10th**

This includes: Lecturer's Report ~ Membership Report ~ Family Activities Report ~ Junior Report  
Youth/Young Adult Report ~ Community Service Notebooks ~ Deaf Awareness Report

**ALSO:**

Lecturer's Creative Writing Entries ~ Family Activities Quilt Block Entries  
(both must be received **NO LATER** than September 10th.)

---

### **Resolutions**

***Resolutions are due to the State Grange Office by October 1st!***

Page 3

*Resolutions/  
Convention*

Page 4

*Thank you for the  
donations*

Page 6

*Don't forget the  
Talent Show*

Page 8

*Junior/Youth Camp  
a huge Success*

Page 11

*MSG Executive  
Comm. Request*

Page 11

*Convention  
Tentative Schedule*

**www.michiganstategrange.org**



## Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

Periodical postage paid at Durand, MI

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

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

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

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

<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>Oct. 13</b>	<b>Columbus Day</b>
<b>Oct. 16-18</b>	<b>Michigan State Grange 141st Annual Convention—Lawton, MI</b>
<b>Oct. 31</b>	<b>Halloween</b>

**Happy Halloween**

<b>Whole page</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>1/2 page</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>1/4 page / business card</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>\$40.00</b>	

The above rates include advertising space for two months.

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

10 issues per year June/July & Oct./Nov. are combined.  
404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429  
Tel: 989-288-4546  
E-mail msgrange1873@yahoo.com

## Chaplain

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

## Take Time...

I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. (Psalm 143:5)

As I was sitting on the shore of Lake Huron I got to thinking about the years when I was a small child and we, as a family would go to the U.P. for camping trips. How as a family we would hike to find and see waterfalls off the beaten path, or look for Petoskey stones on the shorelines of the big waters. How at night we would have a campfire and sing songs. How we would eat out in the open and never mind the bugs. How as I climbed into my sleeping bag inside our big tent I would hear the animals that roamed at night. The night owl was always my favorite and would put me to sleep.

Now I drive down the road and look at the crops in the fields, the deer running across the road ahead of me or even the turkeys eating the grain that has just been harvested. And I wonder why the Good Lord did all of this beautiful wonder. I know that God loves us and provides us with food and beauty but there are people in this world that do not understand that God put it there for us. People just take it for granted that it will always be there.

I am sure you have heard the expression about slowing down to smell the roses. It is not just the roses we need to smell. We need to stop and praise God for the wonders he has provided us. Take time to walk through the woods, or sit in the open and listen to the birds even the music that the bugs are singing for us. We need to feel the grass or sand between our toes or feel the water rushing against our legs and feet. We need to just stop and thank God for all of this.

It is getting time for harvest and I know that the farmers are busy but take time to thank them for doing God's work in providing us with food. Take time to thank God for all of the wonderful things he has given us and is showing us in this world.

Take time and praise God for life, yours and mine.

## IN MEMORY OF



**ALVIN J. THELEN**

**October 1, 1926—July 6, 2014**

Alvin Thelen passed away on July 6th. He was the son of Joseph and Anna Thelen, graduated from Fowler High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Michigan State University. He worked for MSU for 50 years in the Dairy Science Dept. and the Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Services. He served in the Army and was an active volunteer in the Grange and his community.

Alvin served as Overseer for the Michigan State Grange from 1980-1996; Assistant Steward from 1964-1978 and again 2005-2006; Executive Committee 1978-1979 and 1997-2002. He held many offices in his own Subordinate Granges, Olive and Capitol as well as the Pomona Grange. Alvin was always a very dedicated member of the Grange and a friend to all.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Marie, children, Steven (Nancy) Thelen, Vickie (Mike) Thompson, Debra (Gary) Serrino, Douglas (Kim) Thelen, James Thelen, Sandra (Jim) Osowski, and many grandchildren. He was also survived by eight brothers and sisters. He was preceded in death by three brothers.

The funeral for Alvin was held July 12th at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns. Following his wishes his body was to go to the Willd Body Program at MSU. Memorials may be made to a Hospice organization of the donor's choice or St. Johns Knights of Columbus Council #3281 Charities.

Cards, notes, or messages can be mailed to Marie Thelen, 904 Randy Lane, St. Johns, MI 48879 or by email at ajthelen@juno.com.

**WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT**

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414  
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.com

## SPRING or FALL?

After this past Winter I was kind of looking forward to a nice warm summer. While I have quite enjoyed not being roasted as we were last summer a little bit warmer would have been appreciated. As we look to fall, with kids going back to school (yay!), the leaves will change to their beautiful colors, football games will be in full swing, and we will be wrapping up the 141<sup>st</sup> session of the Michigan Grange. Yes that's right it is time once again for delegates from across the state to converge and deliberate upon the matters of the organization. It seems only a couple weeks ago we were saying "see you next year" and now as I write this article, here we are only nine weeks away from the start of the convention. I would love to see for this year's convention that the session committees need more time than what is allotted for them to work on resolutions. With that I mean that I would love to see lots of resolutions. Over the past several years our resolution count has greatly dwindled, now I cannot bring myself to believe that everything in the state of Michigan has simply become perfect and we have nothing that we would like to see changed. Resolutions are due to the Michigan State Grange Secretary no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. If resolutions are passed at your subordinate Grange after that date they can be submitted to me at the convention with 10 copies.



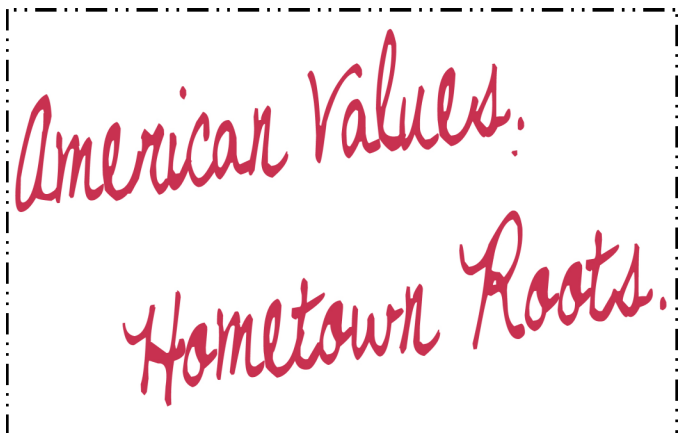
We have a beautiful location for the first part of the convention; we will be starting the convention at the Lawton Community Center which is a repurposed winery. To me it just screams what better place to hold a meeting of an agricultural organization. Friday night after the degree work is complete we will be moving to our new home for Saturday at the Lawton United Methodist church, I have not seen the facilities but I imagine it to will be more than suitable for our needs.

## National Grange

Five years ago we had the opportunity to co-host with 6 of our closest neighboring states, the National Conven-

tion in Grand Rapids. This year we are again working with those same 6 neighbors to co-host the National Grange Convention in Sandusky, Ohio at the Kalahari Resort. We started about three years ago under the direction of our host committee chair, Edythe Walter, from Ohio while we had made great strides towards our goal of hosting a great convention. Little did we know that Sister Edythe was fighting a battle with cancer, to which she recently lost her battle. As we continue on towards a successful convention we will remember her and her enthusiasm she had towards this great organization. Brother Ed Cochran who was serving as the assistant committee chair has stepped up to fill some big shoes and we look forward to working with him through November.

I do have in my possession applications for the Seventh Degree, the highest degree our order has to offer. I will have those until the National Convention for anyone who is planning to attend and has yet to receive the Seventh Degree. The cost of the application is \$20.00.



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

WOW! Where did this summer go? It went way to fast. It's back to school and college time again and most vacations are over.

I want to THANK the Granges and Grangers on their donations to the Deaf Awareness Fund. Again this year we were able to present a scholarship to the Valedictorian at the Michigan School for the Deaf. We also helped the Alexander Graham Bell purchase supplies for their summer camps. It is still not too late to donate if you haven't. These "groups" really appreciate our assistance.

We are still asking for afghans, quilts, fleeces and blankets for the Michigan School of the Deaf. Last year many were made and donated to the school. They are used in the TV room, the game room and in the dorm rooms. Bring the finished "project" to the State Grange Convention.

Continue to save pop tabs and clean aluminum, Campbell Soup points (if you are not sure about this bring the complete label) Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education. We are still collecting items for the Dogs for the Deaf Program — snack, toys, food, etc.

Speaking of the Michigan School for the Deaf, I need to know if you or your Grange would like to have an Adopt-a-Child for Christmas? I do have some Grange and Grangers names already but I need to make sure you still want to be involved. It is a very rewarding program and the expressions on the student's faces is worth everything. (See my address and e-mail at the top of the page) Thanks.

I have received a few Deaf Awareness Chairman's reports. The deadline is coming up soon (Sept. 10, 2014). I would like everyone to send in the report form whether you do a lot or just a little. Each report is important! Please fill in your name and the Grange name and number at the end of the report. Thank you!

I hope you will consider entering the Essay Contest. There are 3 Divisions:

Division I—Junior Grange members

Division II — Youth Grange members

Division III — Subordinate members

Rules:

1. All entries are to be sent to the Deaf Awareness Director by September 10 with Division number, name, Grange name and number and county.
2. Essays must be on the topic "Deaf Awareness". They can be based on true happenings, educations or purely fiction.
3. Stay within a 300 word limit.

Awards:

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each division will be recognized with ribbons and certificates and the Junior Grange members will also be awarded with prize money — 1st place—\$3.00, 2nd place —\$2.00 and 3rd place — \$1.00.

Let's see some entries in each class!!!

Junior Grange Deaf Awareness Poster Contest is open to Junior Grange members or children or grandchildren of Grange members. There are 4 age groups — 5 and under, 6-9, 10-11, 12-14. The poster is to be made on poster board (max. size 18 x 24 inches). Crayons, markers, pencils, pens, cut out pictures and/or photos can be used. Place the entrants name on the back of the poster along with age, Junior Grange name and number and county. The judging will be on the correctness of the message and educational value of poster and neatness. The awards will be ribbons along with money awards — 1st place -\$3.00, 2nd place — \$2.00 3rd place-\$1.00. The poster is to be at the State Grange Convention by Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. Bring it or send it with delegates to where the posters will be judged.

If you have any questions on any of the articles, please contact me. Have a good Fall!!! See you at the State Convention in Lawton.

## IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME, IT'S TIME!

Time to finish up those entries you have to enter in the different departments at state session.

Looking forward to seeing and visiting with many of you. Hope you will do your best to attend all or part of the doings of this year's state convention. This is where your Grange has a voice to be heard. Elections are taking place this year. Let your vote count.

The Family Activities luncheon will be Friday, Oct. 17th., our theme is CELEBRATE! It's when we are going to recognize all of our Grange members for all the work they do for the FA department. Please don't forget to bring a hygiene item to be given to a local shelter. Also remember that National Grange is asking for small stuffed toys to be given to a hospital in Ohio. Nothing over \$12.00, please. I found some really cute ones for \$8.00 at my local Ace Hardware.

The quilt raffle is coming along quite well, I'm not sure if our total is where last years' was at this time. I visited Mosherville's ice cream social, attended meetings at Oceana and Fern Grange. Had the opportunity to stay overnight with Ardith and Herb Merten, and Sandy and Bob Persons. Thanks again to these fellow Grangers for letting me stay, I wouldn't be able to visit so many places without the generosity of such wonderful people. This past week (Aug. 10 -16) I had day trips to Calhoun County Fair in Marshall and Midland County Fair in Midland, thanks to all of you also for making my selling days good ones. August 18th I will be going up to East Jordan, staying with Walt & Pauline Murphy, I'll be making my first visit to the Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair in Petoskey on Aug. 19th. I plan on driving down to Torch Lake Grange in Alden to attend their bingo and meeting, another first. It should be quite a day. September will bring me to my last two fairs. St. Joe and Hillsdale County. Won't be the same without Peg Brown at St. Joe. Hillsdale will be another first for me, thanks to the Hillsdale County Pomona for asking me to attend. Remember the proceeds from this raffle will help REGION 4 finance this year's state convention. Have you purchased your tickets yet? Sold any tickets?

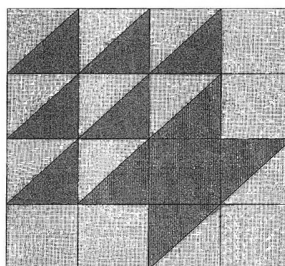
See you in October if not sooner!

Fraternally Judy

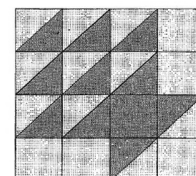
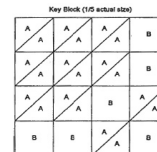
## Don't forget to make your quilt block for this years contest.

**\*\*\*Due to Judy no later than September 10th!!!!\*\*\***

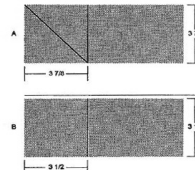
Flower Basket - 12 inch block



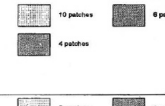
Flower Basket



Cutting Diagrams



Patch Count



## Michigan State Grange Executive Committee Grange Items Available

In keeping with our fiduciary responsibilities, the Executive Committee must scale back to a smaller storage unit. At present, there are a number of items in storage that would be better off someplace where they could be truly wanted and enjoyed. One of these potential places is at local historical museums, where Grange history and impact could be preserved. Some items have already been given to Michigan State University Museum and Archives, as well as the State of Michigan Museum, and Bentley Library, associated with University of Michigan.

We are asking you to go to your local museums and ask them if they would like any of the artifacts listed below. Then, contact Jackie Bishop by e-mail at Jacqueline\_bishop@hotmail.com or by phone message at 269-365-0401. We will make arrangements to get these items to you so that you may personally present them to your local history museums.

### Items available:

**Songbooks** – several different ones, some quite old

**Grange Seals** – there might be one from your county, which could be determined

**Regalia** – not likely to be whole set, because some not in good condition

**Possibly also MSG Proceedings and other miscellaneous items**

By the time you receive this paper the Michigan State Grange State Session will be well upon us. It sure will be GREAT to see everyone again. I'm sure many of you are preparing your items for the different departments. There are many categories to choose from. Just a reminder to everyone the **Talent show is on and will take place on Wed. night.** So come one and all with your talents and we'll have a GREAT show. I hope your summer is going well for you. I could use a few more warm days. Please take care and we'll be seeing you very soon.

### INCREASING OUR WORD POWER

Morning, noon & evening are some ways of indicating time. This will test your knowledge on other words that also indicate time.

1. Per-diem-, A. daily B. twice a day C. every other day.
2. Noctambulist, A. early riser B. sleep-walker, C. one who fears the moon.
3. Fortnight, A. wee hours B. two weeks C. Holidays eve.
4. Soiree, A. high tea B. birthday C. evening party.
5. Circadian, A. in sunlight B. in insect season C. in 24-hour cycles.
6. Ides, A. odd hours B. mid-month C. omens at night.
7. Adjourn, A. wake up B. exercise C. call it a day.
8. Curfew, A. dog day B. short nap C. restriction at night.
9. Reveille, A. hour-long drill B. wake-up call C. Noon break.
10. Crepuscular, A. at twilight B. of holy hours C. Of morning dew.
11. Repast A. prior day B. anniversary C. Time of a meal.
12. Contemporary, A. part-time, B. on the morrow C. present-day.

### ANSWERS

- |       |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. A. | 6. B.  | 11. C. |
| 2. B. | 7. C.  | 12. C. |
| 3. B. | 8. C.  |        |
| 4. C. | 9. B.  |        |
| 5. C. | 10. A. |        |

### WHY IS IT SO

1. Why do ships and aircraft use "mayday" as their call for help? BECAUSE: This comes from the French word m'aidez meaning "help me" and is pronounced, phonetically, mayday.
2. Why are zero scores in tennis called "love"? Because: In France, where tennis became popular, the round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called "loeu", which is French for egg. When tennis was introduced U.S., Americans mispronounced it "love."
3. Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called "passing the buck" Because: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would "pass the buck" to the next player.
4. Why are people in the public eye said to be "in the limelight"? Because: Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theaters by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer "in the limelight" was the center of attention.
5. Why is someone who is feeling great "on cloud nine." Because: Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

### \*\*\*BIG REMINDER!!!\*\*\*

**Display room will be dismantled on Friday evening— Items will need to be picked up early due to moving to another location ~Release time is pending — listen for announcement.**

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

Here we are, approaching the autumn season. School will be starting soon and with that, the annual reports are due to the Michigan State Grange. Hopefully you have completed your community service book or are working on it. As of the writing of this article, I still need to get my book completed for Studley Grange!

I have tried to pass along information in previous Grange News as a guide to putting together the community service book. If you have any questions at all, please give me a call or email me. I want to help in any way possible.

Wednesday, September 10 your book needs to be at my house in Midland. If you have any questions or problems with this date or need to make special arrangements to get the book to me, please contact me. I am willing to work with you so that your community service book can be entered in the contest this year.

In the meantime, enjoy the remaining days of summer! I look forward to seeing you at the Michigan State Grange convention in Lawton.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Carey  
Roy Thunder  
Beverly Converse  
Larry Vaughn  
Maureen Knapper  
Kay Vincent  
Richard Hall  
Wes & Darlene Wetters  
Ralph Bowerman  
Mary Esham  
**Maple Leaf Grange #940**

Thomas Latterner (Reinstated)  
**West Oshtemo Grange #1630**

Art & Lyn Davidge  
**Pittsfield Union Grange #882**

## GRANGE HAPPENINGS

### Fern Grange Buys 4-H hog

Fern Grange #803, Mecosta County, recently bought a hog from a 4-H member at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale the county fair. This will be used to make BBQ Pulled Pork to sell at their food wagon at Wheatland Music Festival. Selling food at this event is the main way Fern Grange raises money. Wheatland allows camping, and the whole event, including thousands of campers, covers about 300 acres on a farm outside of Remus, MI. Approximately 15,000 people attend the 3-day event. There are 5 different stages spread out across the 300 acres. Fun and very busy!

Fern Grange #803 would like to thank Peggy Johnston, Dale Moore, and Sharon Popler for coming up again this year to assist with Degree Day. Good food and good friends!



Sharon Popler was also present and taking the picture.

### Burns Grange Planning Golf Tournament

Burns Grange members are getting ready for the very first golf tournament for this Grange. Members are busy getting sponsorships, prizes and golf teams for this big event to take place on September 5th at Willow Brook Golf Course in Byron, MI.

### **DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE FAMILY ACTIVITIES CHRISTMAS STAR QUILT!**

Drawing will be October 5th at Burns Grange  
Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00  
Contact the Michigan State Grange Office for  
tickets — 989-288-4546 or  
msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Proceeds to help Region #4 to host Convention

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

Thank you to Gratiot Grange #1898 for hosting a great Junior/ Youth & Young Adults Camp in July at the North Star Township Hall! The camp was a success with 10 Juniors and 4 Youth/Young Adults in attendance.

Camp started Friday night where we learned to Hug-A-Tree if we are ever lost in the woods. Thanks to Tish from Ashley Fire and Rescue for teaching us what to do if we get lost and for providing a few supplies to help us to easily be found.

Saturday we went to Uncle John's Cider Mill where we checked out the orchard and saw lots of apples growing. Since the actual mill press was not available to view, we went to play in the play area "Kids Corral" and on the big jumping pillow. Then we were able to go gemstone mining. We found lots of gemstone and minerals in the bags of sand. After lunch we went swimming at the nearby park. That evening we watched a movie while the Youth went out bowling.

In between all the fun activities we were busy crafting bees; making things for the State Convention contests. Michigan State Grange Family Activities Director, Judy Bowers, came to do a polymer clay craft and Michigan State Grange Lecturer, Sharon Popler, was there with shirts to decorate to be entered in the convention contests. Be sure to check out all the items the Juniors made at session. Thank you Judy and Sharon!!

Each of the campers also colored a quilt square. These were tied together with ribbon and it will be auctioned off at the Junior Luncheon. It will be on display in the display room so check it out; you may see someone you recognize! The money raised from the auction will help fund future Junior activities.

Sunday morning we were presented with a worship service and afterwards, we cleaned up the hall and headed home. Exhausted but happy!!

State session is just a few months away! Hope all the Juniors are preparing all sorts of items to be entered. Check out the program books for the contests and requirements and remember that other departments have Junior categories! Also don't forget to come and support the Juniors on Saturday after the Youth Opening. We have a special presentation for you to see and then our luncheon where we will hand out the awards. Show these young Grangers that they are important to our organization!!



Lots of activities from Junior and Youth Camp. #1 Group picture #2 kids and adults working on crafts #3 Quilt made by Junior/ Youth to be raffled off at Youth Luncheon during convention. #4. Kids and adults gemstone mining #5. Everyone having fun with the big jumping pillow and #6 a couple of juniors playing in the sand.

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

We are fast approaching this year's Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange. There are many things to which we can look forward, during this time of both Grange work and fellowship. In addition to the business of the Michigan State Grange, the exemplification of the ritual, and the presentation of numerous awards, we will observe our annual Memorial Service, for those Grange members who passed away during this past year. It is a time for solemn reflection, as well as for appreciation of the gifts and contributions of members who've held positions from our local Granges to the State Grange. This is our chance to appreciate the dedicated service of the members recognized, as well as experience some quiet time to consider the value that each individual Grange member brings to our organization. There is truly no gift or contribution that is too small to recognize in an organization that is so member-driven as is the Grange.

This time is also a great chance to commemorate these fallen members, with a lasting acknowledgement of their lives with us. This can be done through a memorial donation to the State Grange Foundation, or to any other organization that would be important to the member to be recognized. Whether giving to our Foundation or to another charitable organization, the important thing is to find a way to recognize our loved ones and fellow Grange members. These people have, through rich lives of service to our society, bettered the world around them. They have built a greater community of mankind, bringing people together in charity for those in need. This is the lasting impression that they have made upon humanity and their local environment. That impression can persist in the records and work of any charity to which a memorial might be directed, including the Michigan State Grange Foundation.

Once again, we will gather soon, to enjoy fellowship and execute the responsibilities and work of the State Grange. That time will no doubt be a busy time, and one that doesn't leave a great deal of time for reflection. Within it, we make time for our Memorial Service, not just due to the tradition imbued in each of us, but also to remind us of the value that we each bring to our Grange, and more broadly to society. That time should be viewed as an important part of the Annual Convention.

It is much more than an agenda item or even a long-standing institution.

It is a representation of the very nature of our organization, and a reminder of the depth of commitment that each Grange member brings to their time with us.

## **Letters of Appeal**

As you know your Grange has received a couple of Appeal letters this year, one from the Deaf Awareness Director and one from the Junior Director. Both Directors are extremely thankful for the donations that were sent for their departments. These funds have helped to do many things for the deaf and the young people.

Well...we will be having another letter coming out soon! This year we are among the Granges hosting the National Grange Convention in Sandusky, OH. We have to manage the Hospitality Room for one complete day. This means we will be serving something for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our menu has been set and okay'd by those in charge for the week. **Now....**we need funds to purchase these food items. We are hoping that each Grange in Michigan can help with a few dollars to make this a day that we can be proud of. So Secretaries be looking for that letter and please share it with your members and either vote to give a donation or take up a collection and help us the best that you can.

Please send all donations to the Michigan State Grange, 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429 and specify NG Hospitality Room. Thank you!

**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!**

## AGRICULTURE

### Harvest Time

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

Summer has just about gone and kids are back to school, where did it all go!?? I hope everyone has been enjoying the fruits of their labors from their summer gardens. The zucchini squash produced pretty well this year in our garden and the butternut squash are really looking nice. The tomatoes are turning color and my mom will be canning as they are ready. Even the few sunflower seeds that my dad and niece planted on the west side of our vegetable garden did nicely. So nice that my niece was able to enter one of the heads at our county fair and she received an A award.

With summer coming to a close, that means we have seen summer fruits come and go as well. The blueberries in my area were very nice this year. Cherries were going to be nice but we had rain at the wrong time and ruined the tart cherries so we had to wait for tart cherries from Traverse City area. Peaches on the other hand didn't happen in the southwest corner because of the harsh winter which killed off the trees! There were even apple trees that were killed off because of this past winter. Grapes are looking nice and will smell really good when they start to ripen.

Speaking of grapes, I look forward to seeing lots of you at this year's State Session which is being held right in the middle of grape country! We will be in Lawton and Paw Pw and the hosting region has been working hard since last October making plans for where to hold the Session and working with the State Department Directors to coordinate what themes they are using for their meals. We really hope more people attend this year to see they beautiful facility we are at for Wednesday through Friday night.

Remember to bring any silent auction items that you wish to donate with you as this is a fun way to raise money for the Michigan State Grange. While I have your attention regarding raising money, please let the Executive Committee or our State Grange Master know if you have suggestions for u coming fund raisers. It is very important that we keep "extra" funds coming into the treasurer so we do not incur possible bank fees if our account balance does not maintain the level to waive a monthly fee. More of that later in my Treasurer's Annual Report at State Session! See you in Lawton!!

## YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

### Calling all Youth!

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

Calling all Youth and Young Adults. Once again we will be looking for you on Friday night at the Michigan State Grange Convention to prepare for our Saturday opening. If you know you will be there, please let us know ahead of time. If you find out at the last minute that you can be there, please come and join us. There will be a pizza party for the youth on Friday night right after we practice the opening. If you have any questions about the activities at the convention please contact us by phone or by email. We look forward to seeing you all at the convention.

## Legislative

## NG Legislative Dir.

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

I hope everyone got out to vote in the primary elections. I know how difficult it can be because so many candidates run unopposed and you have to vote along party lines. If you don't have any local issues on the ballot it just doesn't seem that important. But it is important!!

In the current political atmosphere, we must make our voices heard. We need to stand up for what is right and what we believe in. Whether it be national, state, or local issues, they all impact us. Local issues can be just as important and have a greater impact on a specific community that the national issues.

When the general election rolls around this November, please educate yourselves on the issues and get out and vote. Your voice needs to be heard.

### NATIONAL GRANGE NAMES NEW LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

J. Burton Eller, Jr., Managing Director of Burton Eller Associates in Washington, DC has been appointed Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Grange. Eller will be responsible for implementing the Grange public policy and government affairs agenda in the nation's capital while engaging grassroots Grange members in this process. He will represent the Grange before Congress, agencies of the Federal Government, coalitions, working groups, and other organizations. Another important responsibility of the Director will be to increase the organization's influence and visibility at the national level and to serve as a reliable resource on rural America, agricultural policy and other issues important to Grange members.

"We are pleased to have someone with Burton's agricultural experience and policy savvy in Washington join our team," said Grange President Ed Luttrell. Burton has been the head of two Washington offices, CEO of two associations and Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture at USDA. His experiences with advocacy, coalition building, stakeholder management, and executive leadership will certainly be valuable to our grassroots Grange mission.

Eller operates a farm in southwest Virginia that has been in his family since 1868.

### GRANGE RESOLUTIONS

Hopefully your Grange has begun the process of adopting resolutions to be submitted to and acted upon at the upcoming Michigan State Grange Convention. Being a grass-roots organization makes it even more important to begin the legislative process locally. This is the beginning of implementing policy for the National Grange. All resolutions at National Grange started out at the local level. This is a great way to be involved. If you have any questions about the process or resolution writing please call or email me. I would be more than happy to assist you in the process.

Also, a reminder to all youth and to all local Granges. Please submit your report forms to us as soon as possible. We most likely will not have access to an office with a printer at state session so we need to get all certificates printed before we go. Thank you for your continued support of the Grange youth in Michigan.

## *In Memory Of...*



Alvin Thelen  
Capitol Grange #540

Jerry Dennert  
Oceana Center Grange #1047

Alice Beebe  
Rome Grange #293

Charles Jameson  
North Adrian Grange #721

David Armstrong  
Adams Grange #286

Well Done Good and Faithful Servants!

## Michigan State Grange Executive Committee Request

### Creative **FUNDRAISING**

**F**ind a date in the next year to have an additional fund-raising event at your Grange

**U**timize Michigan State Grange officers to help man your event

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

**D**elegate tasks to the Michigan State Grange helpers

**R**un the event in the way you normally do

**A**dvertise your event in the normal ways

**I**nvoke lots of people to your event

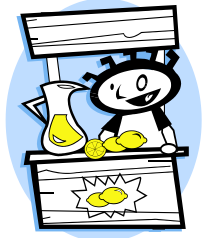
**S**ell to or **S**erve those that attend your event

**I**ncorporate your processes for success that are used in your other local Grange fund-raisers

**N**ew concept to replace Michigan State Grange raffles

**G**ive the profit to the Michigan State Grange

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



## Grange Idol All-Stars Talent Show is Back!!!!!!

This program is on Wednesday night at the State Grange Convention at Lawton, MI.

### **RULES:**

- ♦ Any type of talent within reason. Keep it clean!! Singing, instrument playing, skits, stories, comedy, etc. **Six minutes time limit for act.**
- ♦ Taped accompaniment can be used. Notify State Lecturer prior to the State session about any equipment needs.
- ♦ One entry per person or group. Groups may have non-members but must have at least one Grange member.

**Deadline** for pre-registration by 4 p.m. on Wednesday of the beginning of the State Session.

### **AWARDS:**

Best Over-All, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded. Best Over-all will have the opportunity to attend the National Grange Convention (in Sandusky, Ohio) and perform at the "Evening of Excellence" show.

\*\*\*\*\*

**This contest was taken out of the program for last year and there were requests to have it back, so I expect to see many entries!**

## **2014 CONVENTION TENTATIVE**

### **SCHEDULE**

5th Degree Practice  
Session Committee Meetings

#### Wednesday, October 15

3:00p.m. Delegate Registration  
4:00p.m. Display Room Opens  
6:00p.m. Baking Contest Judging  
7:30p.m. Lecturer Awards  
Baking Contest Awards  
State Officers/Department Directors  
Delegate Reception  
State Officer Practice

#### Thursday, October 16

8:00a.m. Delegate Registration  
9:00a.m. Open 141st Annual Session in 6th Degree  
9:15a.m. Lower to 4th Degree – admit 4th degree members  
Flag Presentation  
Roll Call of Officers  
Roll Call of Delegates  
Welcome by City Officials  
Executive Committee Response  
Partial Report – Credentials Committee  
Adopt Order of Business  
9:30a.m. Lecturer, Family Activities, Junior, Deaf Awareness contest judging  
10:00a.m. Report of Executive Committee  
Financial Reports  
Proposed Budget  
11:00a.m. Advisory Nominations for State officers and Two Foundation Directors  
Masters Address  
12:00p.m. Past/ Present Officer, New Delegate, GROW Club Luncheon  
12:45p.m. Foundation Meeting  
1:30p.m. Session Committee Meetings  
5:30p.m. Salute to Agriculture Dinner  
7:00p.m. Call to Order  
Awards- Membership, Deaf Awareness, Master's Special Award, Gold Star Grange, Information & Community Service  
Memorial Service  
Session Committee Reports  
Close in 4th degree  
6th Degree Practice

#### Friday, October 17

8:30a.m. Election  
9:00a.m. Open Session  
Roll Call of Officers  
9:30a.m. Budget Approval  
Session Committee Reports  
12:00p.m. Family Activities Luncheon and Awards  
2:00p.m. Call to Order  
Roll Call of Officers  
Adoption of Thursday's minutes  
Department Information - Lecturer, Deaf Awareness, Community Service  
Session Committee Reports  
4:30p.m. Close in 4th Degree  
7:00p.m. Fifth Degree  
8:30p.m. Sixth Degree  
10:00p.m. Youth Practice and Pizza Party

#### Saturday, October 18

9:00a.m. Open in 4th Degree by Youth/Young Adults  
Youth Awards  
Roll Call of Officers  
Department Information – Youth/ Young Adult and Legislative  
Session Committee Reports  
10:15a.m. Michigan State Grange Foundation Report  
10:30a.m. Executive Committee Milk Break  
11:00a.m. Junior Grange Presentation  
Department Information – Junior, Website  
Session Committee Reports  
12:00p.m. Junior Luncheon  
1:30p.m. Call to Order  
Roll Call of Officers  
Adoption of Friday's minutes  
Unfinished Business  
Installation of Officers  
4:00p.m. Close of 141st Annual Session  
7:00p.m. Annual Banquet  
VIP Announcement  
Youth/ Young Adult Raffle  
Dance