

Michigan State Grange

October 1, 2014—Sept. 30, 2015

Program Booklet

*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*



Agriculture — Family — Community

www.michiganstategrange.org

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Master | • Agriculture | • Historical Collections |
| • Lecturer | • Legislative | • Publicity/Information |
| • Community Service | • Membership | • Recreational |
| • Secretary | • Family Activities | Opportunities |
| • Deaf Awareness | • Foundation | • Grange News |
| • Junior | • Youth/Young Adult | • Insurance |

Michigan State Grange

Mailing Address — 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

E-mail: msgrange1873@yahoo.com

Telephone: 989-288-4546

Master: Christopher D. Johnston

MASTER

**Christopher D. Johnston, Master
6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
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E-mail: msgprep19@yahoo.com**

Congratulations on being elected Master of your Grange! Responsibility and privilege are yours. Holding this important position requires dedication, patience, hard work, and diplomacy.

FOR A PRODUCTIVE GRANGE

1. Elect and Install Officers
2. Appoint Committees: Involve everyone. Ask Committee Chairmen to report at each meeting.
3. Conduct a yearly planning meeting with your Officers and Committee Chairmen.
4. Open and Close the meeting in proper form, following the Order of Business. Practice good ritual. One meeting per month is required. Two meetings per month provide greater interest and more opportunities to develop the total Grange program.
5. Plan for delegate representation at the Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange. The Master and spouse, or duly elected alternates are eligible.
6. Act on resolutions and send them to the State Grange Secretary for action at the Annual Convention.
7. Develop a plan for membership growth. Use the obligation ceremony, followed by the full degrees.
8. Encourage annual Degree Conferrals.
9. Be an active part of your community.
10. "Whatever you do, strive to do it well."

GOLD STAR GRANGE PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to recognize Subordinate Granges for their work. It is intended to strengthen Subordinate Granges by encouraging participation in the total Grange program. Granges are encouraged to do those things of which they are capable, improving and increasing activity, thereby becoming a vital part of the community. Participation by all departments and members of the Grange is essential to Grange success. This program will reward those Granges who fulfill the **eight** requirements listed and **10 of the 15** optional achievements.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Take in new members _____. How Many? _____
2. Quarterly Reports in to State Grange on time. (30 days after end of quarter.) _____
3. Opening and Closing in form and holding all regular meetings. One meeting per month is required. _____
4. Delegates to State Grange Convention. _____
5. Must have 13 members, the legal limit. _____
6. A Lecturer's Program at all regular meetings. _____
7. A Visit by a State Grange Officer (other than one who is a member of your Grange.) by invitation.
Who _____ When _____

8. Applied for National Grange Distinguished Grange Award. _____

OPTIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Entered and reported in Community Service Contest _____
2. Participation in Degree or Obligation Ceremony Conferral. _____
3. Officers installed in full form. _____
4. Appointments of all Committee Chairmen which are suggested by State Grange. _____
5. Committees reporting at regular meetings. _____
6. Support for Lecturer's Department _____
A. entry in at least one contest.
7. Participation in Family Activities Program. _____
A. List them.
8. Participation in Youth/Young Adult Program _____
A. Youth /Young Adult Conference/Camp
9. Support of Junior Grange Program. _____
A. Junior Grange presently operating/
organization of New Junior Grange
B. Participation in at least one program/contest in
Junior Program (Several are open to
children and grandchildren of Grange
members.)
(One must be completed to count)
10. Grange Deaf Awareness Program _____
A. Contribution to State Grange Deaf Fund
B. Do Program on the subject of deafness or
hearing protection.
(both must be completed to count)
11. Observance of Grange Month _____
A. Program
B. Community Citizen Award
C. Exhibit, display, or poster in prominent place
(Two of the above must be completed to count)
13. Observance of a Community or Booster Night _____
14. At least one resolution forwarded for action at State
Grange Convention. _____
15. Representatives at one or more leadership confer-
ences or workshops sponsored by the State Grange,
County, or Subordinate Grange. _____
16. Use of Publicity — TV, Radio, Newspapers, Social
Media _____

*****CONTEST DATES ARE FROM SEPTEMBER 1, TO AUGUST 31.** Reports are due to the State Grange office no later than **September 10th**. All Granges qualifying will be recognized with a Gold Star Grange Certificate at the State Grange Convention. A scrapbook is not required. The entry and report will consist of this form only. Send to: Peggy Johnston, Secretary, Michigan State Grange, 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429.

LECTURER

Sharon Popler, Lecturer

5640 E. Bath Road, Morrice, MI 48857

Tel: 989-634-5748 (H)

E-mail: gma4hugs@hotmail.com

It's your turn, **YOU** are now the Lecturer of your Grange. For some it may seem like a year of the "same old thing," others of you are new, overwhelmed, scared and wondering why you ever said yes, when asked to run. For whatever reason, it happened, and you will be glad you did say yes.

The Lecturer in the Grange is the third person in line for leadership. When the Master, and Overseer cannot attend **YOU** are the elected person to be in charge. Don't let this upset you either. You have help. Every Granger you meet with, is your helper.

A **committee** should be assigned to you, with input from you on people you want to work with. The State Lecturer has such a committee, and if you are a Subordinate or Pomona Lecturer, with enough members you should work with a committee.

Your **responsibility is education** in the Grange. In today's world with the information overload, and dozens of ways to get it, you need to bring all sides of issues to YOUR Grange. Many TV news shows are slanted, many newspapers get on a crusade and push their viewpoints. Here's where you come in: sort it out, or bring in speakers, for both sides. The National Grange and their directors send all of us ideas to present to our Granges. Delegates have agreed upon these ideas at State and National Convention.

The **Legislative Policy books** are big with subjects to discuss. Use them, you have one in your Grange from your State Grange and from the National Grange.

COORDINATED EFFORT

Don't forget other sources — The youth, Junior, Deaf Awareness, Family Activities, Agriculture and Legislative committees, in your own neighboring Granges and from State Officers. **We are all here to help YOU...you are not alone, when you become Lecturer.**

Don't forget Fun....recreation...a program for each meeting should include these too. Lots of us look forward to a Grange meeting to get away from the "world." We can be revitalized for a little while and good humor is a very positive thing!

You will have some fees so a **budget** is in order. Talk to your Master to see what your budget consists of. Your local Grange should be willing to supply fees if needed for prizes, speakers, Lecturers Conference, etc. Using your own money is not a good habit to get into.

Brothers/Sisters in the Lecturer's Department let your programs educate, and stimulate positive actions!

Now, on to the contests that have been **successful** for Michigan. All the details are here.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

The purpose of the contest is to encourage members to develop and share their talent as a writer.

Topic 1. What I like about my Grange

Topic 2. A family sports event

Topic 3. Summer Vacation

Stories only — 300-600 word limit! Please count!

Division I Subordinate Members

Division II Juniors Members — 6 & under

Division III Junior Members — 7-8 year old

Division IV Junior Members — 9-11 year olds

Division V Junior Members — 12-14 year olds

Rules:

1. Eligibility — Subordinate Grangers including associates, Junior Grangers or family members of a Subordinate member
2. Division II — 6 & under can dictate story to an adult to be written.
3. One entry per member per topic may be submitted.
4. May be handwritten, or typed. If handwritten, must be legible & neat — **no pencil**. Must be written in either black or blue ink.
5. Judging: Interest 50% Composition 50%
6. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbon awarded in each division.

HAND CRAFTED ART CONTEST

The purpose of this contest is to promote and encourage the creativity of our Grange members.

Rules:

1. Must be a Subordinate or Junior member or family member of a Subordinate member to enter.
2. Items must be finished within the contest year Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.
3. ALL work must be original from start to finish with the exception of ceramics where purchased molds or green ware may be used.
4. ALL entries must be small enough to place on a display table. Large articles of furniture will not be accepted.
5. Any members may submit an entry in all classes, but only one entry per class.
6. Each article must be labeled securely: *****Must use label which is supplied by the State Grange**. Ask your Lecturer for one and include all pertinent information.
 - A. Name and division of entry.
 - B. Address — Street, City, State and Zip
 - C. Grange name, number and county.

AWARDS:

Division I — Subordinate Members incl. Associates

Division II Juniors Members — 6 & under

Division III Junior Members — 7-8 year old

Division IV Junior Members — 9-11 year olds

Division V Junior Members — 12-14 year olds

1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons awarded in each Division
Juniors receive \$3.00, \$2.00, \$1.00 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

CLASSES:

- A. Dried Flower arrangement
- B. Decorated Apron
- C. Homemade Throw Pillow
- D. Weaved Item
- E. Miscellaneous Craft — Items must not qualify for any other departments contests.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Originality of Design	30%
Workmanship	30%
Technique	30%
Neatness of Work	10%



GRANGE IDOL ALL-STARS TALENT SHOW

This program is on Wednesday night at the State Session.

Rules:

- ◊ Any type talent within reason. Keep it clean! **Six minute time limit for act.**
- ◊ Taped accompaniment can be used. Notify State Program Director prior to 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 Overall, 1st, 2nd, 3rd place ribbons will be awarded. Best Over-all will have the opportunity to attend the National Grange Convention and perform at the "Evening of Excellence" show.

ART CONTEST:

Two Categories:

1. Computer Art
2. Water Colors
2. Pencil Drawing

Criteria for Judging:

How well the artist used the medium selected
 Craftsmanship and skill
 Composition, presentation or subject
 Originality
 Theme and its treatment

Rules:

1. All entries must be the original work of the member.
2. All entries must be completed after October 1 and before September 30.
3. Entries are judged according to the category designated by the artist, regardless of the medium used.
4. Nude entries will not be accepted or if sent will not be displayed.
5. Size for all classes: Art work must not exceed 24" x 36". There is not a minimum size.
6. **All entries must have a firm backing so they can be properly displayed.**
7. Non-breakable covering (such as Plexiglas) is acceptable. Glass covered entries will not be judged. **DO NOT SEND ANY GLASS WITH ENTRIES.**
8. Ages of Junior Grange members as of Jan. 1, MUST be on the label, otherwise the entry will not be judged.

Division I — Subordinate Members incl. Associates

Division II Juniors Members — 6 & under
 Division III Junior Members — 7-8 year old
 Division IV Junior Members — 9-11 year olds
 Division V Junior Members — 12-14 year olds
 1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons awarded in each Division
 Juniors receive \$3.00, \$2.00, \$1.00 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Five Categories

1. Farm Scene
2. Picture of a lake
3. Family celebration
4. Patriotic
5. Autumn color picture

Criteria for Judging:

Composition and Arrangement
 Interest
 Presentation
 Technique

Rules:

1. Only prints are accepted for judging. No slides
2. Photographer must select the category for his/her entry.
3. A photograph may be entered in only one category.
4. **Captions are optional**
5. Participants may enter all categories, using different photos.
6. Participants may submit only **ONE** entry, per category.
7. Entries must have been taken after Oct. 1 and before Sept. 30.
6. Print may be made by a commercial process but must have been taken by the entrant personally
7. **MATTED ONLY — NO FRAMES OR GLASS!**
8. Only traditional printed photos will be accepted.
9. Age of Junior Granger as of January 1 **must** be on the label.
10. Members are reminded that while there are not separate categories for close-up and black and white photos, they are welcomed in all categories.

Division I — Subordinate Members incl. Associates

Division II Juniors Members — 6 & under

Division III Junior Members — 7-8 year old

Division IV Junior Members — 9-11 year olds

Division V Junior Members — 12-14 year olds

1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons awarded in each Division
 Juniors receive \$3.00, \$2.00, \$1.00 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

NATIONAL GRANGE PHOTO CONTEST

1. One photo per State Best of Show (**State Lecturer will have photography judges choose one Best of Show from all photos entered.**)
2. Size: minimum 4 x 6 to a maximum of 11 x 14 size includes matting, if used.
3. **No frames** and photo shall have some type of ridged backing.
4. Color or black/white.
5. Film or digital
6. Grange members only.
7. No Professional photographers may enter
8. Photo must be received by me before the gavel drops opening NG session.
9. NG Program Director and the SG Lecturer of the state hosting will provide the judge (s).
10. National Grange and State Grange hosting the session will not be responsible for the cost of receiving or returning any photos.
11. Prize money: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75 and 3rd \$50.00.
12. The National Grange Lecturer/Program Director retains the right to disqualify any photo that depicts a scene or image that is contrary to the Organizations core values with the approval of the National Master.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Tricia Eidsmoe, Co-Director
1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
Tel: 989-631-0079
E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net**

**Helen Mudd, Co-Director
1757 E. Stewart Road, Midland, MI 48640
Tel: 989-631-3708**

PURPOSE: Community Service is the heartbeat of the Grange. Granges that have a strong Community Service Program have a strong Grange. The purpose of the Community Service Report is to recognize and reward outstanding efforts made by Granges in their communities. The report is also intended to share information between Granges and inspire new ideas and programs.

PROGRAM PERIOD: The Community Service program period is September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015.

REPORTS: Community Service Reports should be sent to the Community Service Director by September 10th.

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

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

NOTEBOOK REPORTS: Notebook reports **MUST** contain the Summary Report as the first pages of the report. Materials should be organized and indexed in a manner that effectively tells the story of your Grange's Community Service work. (Materials such as video tapes, DVD's and computer generated programs should not be included with reports and may not be used in place of a notebook report.)

PROJECTS: Descriptions of projects should answer the questions, What? Who? Why? How? And When?

Suggestions to help tell your story:

- Why did you choose this project?
- What is your goal?
- How did you accomplish the project? Include the details of the work. Were there special committees? Did it take co-operation of other groups? Include the advanced preparations, and how many workers it took.
- What did you accomplish? Was it success? Include supporting materials (publicity, pictures, news articles, letters, etc.) Did you overcome obstacles? What would you do differently? Would you recommend this type of project to other Granges?

Keep the report concise. Include only material that directly impacts on the project you are explaining.

AWARDS: Cash awards will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each division.

JUDGING: Selection of judges will be made at the discretion of the State Community Service Committee. All decisions made by the judges are final.

DEDICATED WORKER AWARDS

This award has its importance to the Granges presenting the award. This award will no longer be judged at the state level.

We hope that Granges will continue to present this award to people in their community.

Purpose: Each Grange is asked to honor a dedicated worker 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.

VIP — VERY IMPORTANT PATRON AWARD

Purpose: The purpose of the VIP Award is for each Grange to honor one member who has made an outstanding contribution to their Grange in the past year.

Submission: 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.

Judging: Judging will be the responsibility of the State Grange Community Service Directors. An award will be presented at the Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange.

National Grange Benefits

The Grange offers an assortment of member benefits from discounts to insurance. You can receive discounts on car rentals, hotel accommodations, prescription drug coverage and so much more. As a member, you can take advantage of these money savings opportunities right away.

For more information on any of the following benefits, contact the National Grange at 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006 or 202-628-3507.

- ◊ Visa Platinum Reward Credit Card
- ◊ TSYS Merchant Solutions/Flyer
- ◊ The Azigo Cash-back shopping mall
- ◊ Choice Hotels
- ◊ Exclusive Grange Worldwide Hotel Discounts
- ◊ Exclusive Grange Worldwide Car Rental Discount Program
- ◊ Hertz Rental Car
- ◊ Comfort Keepers
- ◊ Life Line Screening
- ◊ LTC Financial Partners
- ◊ Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- ◊ VPI Pet Insurance
- ◊ U.S. Pharmacy Card
- ◊ True Hearing
- ◊ American Hearing Benefits
- ◊ Office Depot
- ◊ Safeguard Complete (Identity Theft and Backup for your computer)
- ◊ Rx Pharmacy Card provided by CVS Caremark (also for pet prescriptions)
- ◊ Constellation Energy (CEG)
- ◊ Healthcare Exchange
- ◊ United of Omaha Life Insurance Company
- ◊ MetLife Auto and Home
- ◊ National Grange Travel Center (Wyndham Hotels, Budget & Avis Car Rental, TNT Vacations, Go Ahead Tours & Cruise Agency)

DEAF AWARENESS

Luanna Swainston, Director

965-108th Street SW, Byron Center, MI 49315

Tel: 616-877-0169 (H) 616-262-3516 (C)

E-mail: plswainston@hotmail.com

The purpose of the Grange health project, Grange Deaf Awareness, is to serve deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people.

>>to encourage education of Grange members and non-Grange persons regarding deafness, including understanding the need for communication access by deaf and hard of hearing people.
>>to promote hearing protection, and to provide information about the hazards of noise.

>>to develop new programs and projects that will meet the above criteria.

>>Further, to create interest in our health project at all Grange levels, to increase participation and strengthen the image of the Grange.

IDEAS FOR ACTION AND SPECIAL AWARD

For Pomona, Subordinate and Junior Granges

Award: Grange Deaf Awareness Chairmen completing fifteen (15) of the suggested activities will receive Special Recognition at the Annual Session of the Michigan State Grange.

1. Plan year's work, bring ideas to your meeting, and then ask for a Grange vote.
2. Make an annual donation to the State Grange Deaf Awareness fund.
3. Report some phase of Grange Deaf Awareness in each meeting. Use the State Grange Deaf Awareness Newsletter as a source of information.
4. Present at least one program each year on the subject of Deafness, hearing protection, any part of hearing loss.
5. Participate in the Michigan School for the Deaf Adopt-A-Child Project.
6. Participate in any other Michigan School for the Deaf projects or events.
7. Donate to the Michigan School for the Deaf (blankets, throws, afghans, box tops for Education, Campbell Soup label points, labels for Education, beverage pull tabs, clean aluminum items, books or something from their wish list.)
8. Donate treats and/or toys to the Dogs for the Deaf Program.
9. Interact with schools where deaf or hard of hearing children attend in your area.
10. Interact with deaf-related agencies or deaf related programs in your area.
11. Observe Better Hearing and Speech Month in May
12. Have a speaker speak at your Grange meetings concerning deaf awareness issues.
13. Encourage the use of microphones in Granges and public meetings. Does your Grange use microphones in its meetings or events? Yes _____ No _____.
14. Attend a Deaf Awareness conference, State Grange Convention or any other State Grange sponsored leadership conference.
15. Promote newborn hearing screening, give information in your meetings, talk to parents of young children about the importance of this subject.

16. Support legislation that benefits deaf and hard of hearing people.

17. Plan and carry out an Elementary School project on the subject of hearing loss, deafness, hearing protection, or communication for deaf and hard of hearing people.

18. Promote entries in the Junior Grange Deaf Awareness Poster Contest. Encourage them to learn sign language. (see rules in Program Book)

19. Promote and encourage entries in the "Essay Contest" which is available for all ages. (see rules in program book)

20. Purchase any kind of equipment such as a telephone with amplification, a telephone amplifier, TCC (TTY) for a deaf or hard of hearing person or for a hospital, sheriff's department, fire department, or other place as determined by your Grange.

21. Distribute the Pledge of Allegiance in Sign Language posters in your community.

22. Distribute the Manual Alphabet posters in your community.

23. Distribute the Do You See the Signs posters in church nurseries, Day Care Centers, school and other places where families congregate.

24. Distribute the hearing protection poster, Your Noisy World Could Get Silent, in your community.

25. Distribute the Grange Deaf Awareness poster that promotes, Awareness , Education and Prevention of Deafness.

26. Distribute the brochure, Communicating and Connecting, in libraries, at Grange events or community events.

27. Promote hearing testing for all ages.

28. Plan and carry out a hearing testing project in your Grange or meeting place.

29. Place a Deaf Awareness display in a library, Grange hall or meeting place, County Fair, community event, store window or any other place where it will be seen by the general public and/or by Grange members.

30. Send a report of your activities to the MSG Deaf Awareness Director by Sept. 10th. (Report form to be provided.)

Junior Grange Deaf Awareness Poster Contest

Purpose: To teach Junior Grange members about hearing loss, hearing protection, and how deaf and hard of hearing people communicate and to give Juniors the opportunity to express their creative abilities.

Awards: Ribbons and money awards in each age group.

1st place — \$3.00, 2nd place — \$2.00, 3rd place — \$1.00

Judging: The judging will be on Correction of Message and Educational Value of poster and neatness.

Four Age Groups: 6 and under, 7-8, 9-11, 12-14 who are Junior Grange members or family member of Subordinate members.

Rules: Poster to be made on poster board. (max. size 18 x 24 inches) You can use crayons, markers, pencils, pens, cut out pictures, and/or photos. The name of the entrant to be placed on the back of the poster along with age, Junior Grange name and number and county.

Entry Deadline: to be at the State Grange Convention by Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. Bring it in or send it with delegates to where the posters will be judged.

Deaf Awareness continued from page 6

Essay Contest

Division I Junior 6 & under

Division II Junior 7-8

Division III Junior 9-11

Division IV Junior 12-14

Division V Subordinate Grange members

Rules:

1. Must be a Subordinate or Junior member or family member of a Subordinate member to enter.
2. All entries are to be brought to the convention for judging, with Division number, name, Grange name and number and county.
3. Essays must be on the topic "Deaf Awareness." They can be based on true happenings, educational or purely fiction.
4. Stay within a 300 word limit.

Awards: 1st, 2nd, and 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, 3rd place — \$1.00

SAVE~SAVE~SAVE~SAVE~SAVE

Beverage can tabs or other clean aluminum items, Campbell soup label points Box Tops for Education & Labels for Education

SECRETARY

Peggy L. Johnston, Secretary

404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

Tel: 989-288-4546 (H) 517-285-6532 (C)

Grange Secretaries are one of the most important officers in the Grange. It is our duty to be sure to keep accurate records for history purposes as well as for the present. A Secretaries job is not done at the end of the meeting it requires homework.

Reminders:

- Quarterly report forms will be sent to each Secretary at the beginning of the year. Please made one copy for your records and one to send to the State Office.
- Quarterly dues are due within 30 days of the end of the quarter. Quarters end on the last day of March, June, September, and December.
- Officer/Chairman forms should be filled out and returned to the State Office by July 15th.
- If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.
- Please fill out and return the forms sent to you instead of your own. It helps to keep the record keeping up to date.
- Be proud of your work as Secretary.
- Remember when writing the minutes to make them complete...these are the histories of your Grange.
- If you have any questions pertaining to your position, please don't hesitate to contact the State Grange Office.



Remember your Secretary on April 22, 2015

AGRICULTURE

Kevin Young, Director

60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120

Tel: 269-684-3870

E-mail: kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

1. The Master should **appoint an agricultural chairman and committee** to work with different segments of production.
2. Become informed and involved on local and state issues. The basic needs of agriculture start with a group of business people investing in a highly technical business that welcome the support of all the consumers.
3. Invite local farmers, legislators to **participate in forums** to better secure legislature and support form local and state governments.
4. Agriculture is greatly influenced by taxation, petroleum costs, agricultural inputs and capital to purchase equipment, labor and supplies. The Grange **must understand** all aspects of farming are done in a timely fashion as farmers have no control over the weather.
5. **Promote** crop insurance, technology and cooperative relations.
6. Despite the fact that agriculture is done in a rural setting, the Grange **must promote good roads** (farm to market roads) due to the large amount of inputs and harvest return (meat, milk, crops, and vegetables) for an economic delivery.
7. The Agricultural Chairman should give a **detailed report** at each meeting regarding progress in agriculture.
8. The Grange should encourage business people and politicians to attend meetings at all time and make an effort to get them to join the Grange.
9. **Insurance is a very important issue.** All rural families should have a chance to have health and dental care and access to local hospitals.
10. **Let's work together to make these things happen.**



**Reach Out to the FFA Chapters
and /or 4-H Clubs**

The Grange needs to reach out to local FFA Chapters &/or 4-H Clubs and partner with them in any way they can and make an effort for them to join the Grange.

JUNIOR

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

COLORING CONTEST

Color the picture of Michigan Information. Check page 15 of this program book for picture. (Picture is also available on the Junior Program website page.)

RULES:

Junior Grange Members or family members of a Subordinate member

Size: 8 1/2 x 11

Age Group: 6 & under, 7-8, 9-11, 12-14

Contestants name, age, address, Grange name and number, must be attached.

Judging will be on creativity, originality, and use of theme. All entries will be judged at State Grange Convention.

AWARDS: (In each age group)

1st Place: Blue Ribbon + \$3.00

2nd Place: Red Ribbon + \$2.00

3rd Place: White Ribbon + \$1.00

CRAFTS

PET ROCK

Rock no larger than 6 inches

Must have distinct eyes and mouth

Any type of design (be creative)

Decorated in any medium (ribbons, ruffles, paint, decoupage, etc.

FAIRY GARDEN

Container no bigger than 12 x 12 inches, no smaller than 5 x 5 inches.

Can use real or artificial plants/flowers.

Can use any kinds of trinkets or decorations.

DREAM CATCHER

No bigger than 12 inches

Can use any type of material

RULES:

Must be durable to withstand transport.

Junior Grange members or family members of a Subordinate member.

Age groups 6 & under, 7-8, 9-11, 12-14

Contestants first and last name, age, address, Grange name and number must be attached on separate paper.

Judging will be on creativity, originality, and neatness. All entries will be judged at State Grange Convention.

AWARDS: (in each age group)

1st Place: Blue Ribbon + \$3.00

2nd Place: Red Ribbon + \$2.00

3rd Place: White Ribbon + \$1.00

JUNIOR GRANGE GROUP ACTIVITY

Do a community service project in your community. Make a table top display of your project for State Session.

RULES:

Junior Grange members or family members of a Subordinate member.

Table Top Display (i.e. Scrapbook, poster, display board, etc.)
Include subordinate members in this activity to help promote working with the juniors.

Include pictures, drawings and interesting facts

No age groups. This is a group effort.

All entries will be judged at the State Grange Convention.

AWARDS: Certificates will be presented to Junior Granges completing a display for state session.

JUNIOR GRANGE CAMP

There will be a combined Junior and Youth/Young Adult camp this year. Combining these camps has been very successful. Older Juniors are able to participate in Y & YA activities. The plans for camp will be announced in the Michigan Grange News when plans are finalized.

THE JUNIOR DEGREE

Officers should be encouraged to commit the lectures to memory. This is a beautiful ceremony when done properly. A short form obligation has been written by the National Grange for use when necessary. The full form Junior Degree should be exemplified as often as possible.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, JUNIOR GRANGE GRADUATION AND JUNIOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Complete ceremony included in the Junior Manual.

RECEIVING HONORED GUESTS

Used when a visiting National or State Officer attends a Junior Grange meeting.

Please check the Lecturer's, Family Activities, Deaf Awareness and other departments for contests that the Juniors can enter as well.

Please check the National Grange Junior Department for national program and contests.



MEMBERSHIP

Position is open

Ya Gotta Wanna: Plan! Publicize! Persevere! People!

The duty of a Subordinate (local/community) Grange Membership Chairman is to encourage and motivate their fellow members to bring in new members on a regular basis. While it is important for you to set the example and show others how to do it, it is not your duty to bring in all the new members for your Grange.

The goal for the coming year in the state of Michigan is to have at least half of the Granges with a net gain. In the past several years, we have set BHAGs (Big, Hairy Audacious Goals) that were much more difficult to achieve, so this should be "a piece of cake". The past year had 5 Granges of the 34 with net gains, but certainly 17 Granges with net gain is achievable. Below are the P's to help you be one of the "net gain" Granges.

Plan!: In order to assure membership success, each Grange should set goals for membership. These goals might include a number of new members to acquire and a percentage of members to retain. Each Grange should plan how they intend to reach the goals set, which might include special and/ or new events sponsored by the Grange, new ways to promote the Grange, or development of a new member application specific to your Grange. The year-end report will ask you to report on plans you made this past year to build and/or retain membership in your Grange.

Publicize!: Consider what publicize means in the broadest sense as it relates to your Grange. It might mean getting an article published in the local newspaper or on the radio, and certainly this is a good way to keep the name of the Grange in front of your community so that they know the kinds of projects and activities that you have and what you stand for. However, it is also possible to publicize the Grange as you have conversations with others while at community activities, as well as at your Grange fundraisers and activities. Encourage current members at every meeting to ask others to join the Grange. Make sure you have a membership application with you at all times and distribute these freely to others. Using the benefits list you have created, have a short, two- or three-sentence description of why someone would want to belong to the Grange and target it to the person with whom you are speaking. Finally, ask people to join the Grange.

Persevere!: This is the hardest "P" of all, yet we know that it is a basic principle of the Grange. Based on history, about 76% of the people that you ask to join the Grange will say "no". However, that still leaves 24%! About 10% of the people you ask were waiting for you to ask. Through creative planning of activities and membership recruiting and retention, as well as publicizing Grange activities, this can happen. Approaching membership with a positive attitude leads to greater success – the glass is half full, not half empty! Often, we want quick growth in membership, but normally growth in membership happens as a result of multiple steps that lead to that growth.

LEGISLATION

Jeffrey A. Swainston, Director

2589 144th Avenue, Dorr, Mi 49323

Tel: 616-813-8746

E-mail: jeff@jnsphoto.biz

Legislation is a very important part of the Grange program. Use it to interest present and prospective members. Coordinate legislative efforts with those of the Master and other officers and departments of your Grange.

1. **Appoint a Chairman.**
2. Use the State and National Grange Legislative Booklets as a resource.
3. Become involved, in, and knowledgeable on, local issues. Be informed.
4. Prepare resolutions and send them to county, state, and national representatives — both Grange and Government.
5. **Publicize legislative activities.**
6. Place National Grange legislative materials in a notebook to use as a handy reference.
7. Compile a list of public officials at local, state and national levels. Keep names and addresses available for future contact.
8. Update your Grange. Let your **Master** know you have, and wish to give, a **report at every meeting**. Encourage discussion.
9. **Call for action.** Encourage your Grange to react to an issue by drafting a resolution or letter and sending it to the appropriate public officials and your local newspaper and radio station.
10. Contact other groups with similar interests. **Organize efforts on specific issues.**
11. Follow through on Grange-adopted policy. Find out why things have not changed, and learn how they can be changed.
12. **Make voter registration a priority.** Set a goal of having all eligible members of your Grange registered to vote. Involve the Grange in non-partisan voter registration drives.
13. **Ask public figures to join your Grange.** This could be the start of a good working relationship.
14. Work with **Lecturer** to promote a Grange Issues Forum.
15. Work with the **Agriculture Committee** to promote farm issues; the **Information Chairman** to publicize the Grange position on issues affecting your community; the **Membership Committee** to inform potential new members of the legislative interests of your Grange; the **Youth/Young Adult Chairman** and **Junior Leader** (or chairman) to encourage young people to become informed and active in public affairs; the **Deaf Awareness Chairman** to promote effective legislation for deaf and hard of hearing people.
16. Hold a **Candidate's Night.** Invite non-members.
17. Have discussions on **Health Care Reform**, or have a community wide meeting to discuss the subject.
18. **GET INVOLVED!**

People!: After you have planned, publicized and persevered, people will result! Your task is not over once you have the dues and a signed application. Now, you need to make that new member, and even current members, feel a part of the organization. Make sure that the new member receives the obligation and/or is recognized and introduced at the first meeting they attend. If the first event is not a meeting, make sure that you recognize their contributions. Keep in mind to recognize current members as well. You might wish to have an annual member recognition program celebrating the Grange anniversaries, as well as the new members of the year.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Judy Bowers, Director

11802 Reed Road, Byron, MI 48418

Tel: 517-242-2790

E-mail: judykaybowers@yahoo.com

HOME ARTS CONTESTS PROGRAM YEAR 2013-2014

Sponsored by

The Family Activities Department

Anyone who is 14 and older are encouraged to enter any or all of the categories:

General Rules:

1. All entries must be labeled with an official label and entry forms must be completed prior to entering in competition. Contact your Family Activities Chairman for labels.
2. Workmanship must be that of entrant.
3. **Only one entry per class:** (classes — afghans, doily, plastic canvas, etc.)
4. Adult entries will receive ribbons for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places and all entries will receive a participation ribbon.
5. Junior entries will receive ribbons for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place plus a \$3 cash prize for 1st prize, \$2 cash prize for 2nd place and \$1 cash prize for 3rd place. All entries will receive a participation ribbon.
6. Best of Show award will be awarded by the Judges this year. All entries will be eligible to receive this honor.

Adult Home Arts Categories

All Grange members 14-100+ (Men and Women) are encouraged to enter any or all of this year's categories.

I Baked Goods (men and women)

- *Must include recipe, typed or legibly printed.
- *Must be made from scratch, no mixes.
- *Display should be on a disposable plate or pan.
- *Judging will be based on appearance, texture and flavor.

- A. Coffee Cake
- B. Breakfast Rolls

II Baking with Pumpkin

- A. Any Item

III Processed Home Canning

- A. Jam or Jelly
- B. Vegetable
- C. Any Other

IV Knitting

- A. Afghan
- B. Clothing
- C. Any Other

V Crocheting

- A. Afghan
- B. Doily
- C. Any Other

VI

Embroidery

- A. Pillow (maximum 18" x 18")
- B. Pillow cases (set of 2)
- C. Any Other

VII

Counted Thread

- A. Cross Stitch (if picture-no frame)
- B. Plastic Canvas
- C. Any Other (Needlepoint, Hardanger)

VIII

Quilting — Quilts only

- A. Combination
- B. Machine
- C. Tied

IX

Quilted Items

- A. Table Runner

X

Sewing

- A. Pillow case (set of 2)
- B. Purse or tote
- C. Any Other

XI

Polymer Clay (Baked)

- A. Jewelry
- B. Any Other

XII

Snowman (no bigger than 18 inches)

- Any medium

XIII

Christmas Stocking

- A. Felt or Cloth
- B. Knit or Crochet
- C. Any Other

JUNIOR HOME ARTS CATEGORIES:

Each category will be judged in 4 age groups:

- Division I Juniors Members — 6 & under
- Division II Junior Members — 7-8 year old
- Division III Junior Members — 9-11 year olds
- Division IV Junior Members — 12-14 year olds

I

Baked Goods

- *Must include recipe, typed or legibly printed
- *Must be from scratch (no mixes)
- *Display should be on a disposable plate or pan
- *Judging based on appearance, texture & flavor

- A. Regular size loaf of Quick Bread

Judging for categories II—VI will be based equally on workmanship, creativity and design.

II

Sewing

- A. Laundry Bag
- B. Pillowcase
- C. Any Other

III

Crochet or Knit

- A. Dish cloth
- B. Scarf
- C. Any Other



Junior Family Activities Contests continued from page 10

IV Polymer Clay (baked or no bake)

A. Any Item

V Shrinky Dinks

A. Any Item

VI Paper Mache

A. Any Item — Up to 8"

VII Lego Building

A. Any Item — Up to 8"

FOUNDATION

Roland G. Winter, President

15150 A Drive North, Marshall, MI 49068

Tel: 269-781-2500

E-mail: rbwin129@comcast.net

The "Mission" Statement of the Foundation is to provide educational resources to as many members and charitable organizations as possible. Interest free loans are available for Grange members to attend Universities, Colleges, Trade Schools of their choice. Funds are also available for Grange Department Directors programs that include support for Youth Leadership and Promotion, Junior Activities, Family Activities, Lecturer's Activities, Deaf Awareness Projects, and Community Service Projects.

The Foundation is **supported by donations** from Granges and by individuals who believe in the program. Additional funds are also received from interest obtained from investments made by the Foundation Board of Directors.

A permanent "Endowment Fund" has been established from which only the interest earned is used for Foundation activities. Donations can be made directly to the endowment fund. In addition one-half of all general donations are credited to the fund. Establishment of this fund assures a continued support in the future of the Foundation programs.

Donations to the Foundation are **tax deductible**. Donations can be made on behalf of the deceased. It is also suggested that donations - of special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, etc. The Foundation can also be named in your will and can accept real estate and personal property donations. **Your donations to the Michigan State Grange Foundation will be gratefully acknowledged and your support will be appreciated by the many benefactors that receive support from the Foundation program.**

MSG FOUNDATION

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**

PUBLICITY — INFORMATION

Peggy L. Johnston, Master

404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429

Tel: 989-288-4546 (H) 517-285-6532 (C)

E-mail: msgprez19@yahoo.com

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Appoint an Information Chairman. (Publicity and Public Relations)
2. Publicize meeting dates.
3. Publicize programs, projects and activities. Work with officers and Committee Chairmen.
4. Identify Grange name and number and meeting date and time on outside of Grange hall or meeting place.
5. Present a Media Award to your newspaper and/or others who publicize Grange events.
6. When writing articles use the 5 "W" system. What, Where, When, Who and Why?
7. Contact daily and weekly newspaper editors, TV and radio stations. Becoming friends with media leadership is beneficial.
8. Write and thank news media following coverage.
9. Plan special coverage for Ag Day or Ag Week, Grange Month, Better Hearing and Speech Month, conferences and the State Grange Convention.
10. Keep trying and you will see your news in print or hear it on the radio or TV!
11. Send copies of newsletters or newspaper articles or a written summary of radio or television coverage, to the State Grange Office so your Grange will receive a certificate at the State Grange Convention.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Special recognition will be given to the Granges that report publicity, fair booths, attend or host conferences, have special programs where non-members are invited and any other forms of PR during the year.

IDEAS:

- ◊ Publish a newsletter for your Grange.
- ◊ Exchange speakers with other organizations.
- ◊ Remember to use posters, banners, flyers to publicize your events and activities.
- ◊ Don't pressure or threaten the media.
- ◊ Observe deadlines.
- ◊ Don't color the facts or exaggerate.
- ◊ Always be courteous, remembering you are representing your Grange.
- ◊ Send articles to Michigan Grange News, (pictures and articles) Send to 404 S. Oak Street, Durand, MI 48429.
- ◊ Write letters to the Editor, Congressmen, Governor, President, Secretary of Agriculture (send copies to media contacts).
- ◊ Be fair with all media — don't exclude any even though they might not have published some of your news.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

Jeff/Nancy Swainston, Directors

2589 144th Ave., Dorr, MI 49323

Tel: 616-813-8746

E-mail: jeff@jnsphoto.biz

GRANGE: AMERICAN VALUES, HOMETOWN ROOTS

Purpose:

1. To serve the needs and interests of youth.
2. To recognize and develop talents and leadership abilities of young people.
3. To compliment the total Grange program.
4. To provide learning experience through special program.
5. To encourage Youth participation in Grange events.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Purpose: To award achievement in either the Subordinate or Pomona Grange. Each Grange may give as many awards as members are qualified. Points will be given for participation.

Requirements:

1. A Fourth degree member.
2. Involvement in attendance, office held, working on projects, committees, school activities, etc.
3. Fill out and mail completed report to State Grange Youth Director by September 10 of each year.

Award: A certificate to be awarded at the State Grange Convention. Award certificate may also be taken back to be awarded at local Grange meetings.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR POMONA AND SUBORDINATE GRANGES

Purpose: To provide the opportunity to recognize the Youth Program of Pomona and Subordinate Granges.

Requirements:

1. Chairman to fill out annual report form.
2. Report due to State Grange Youth Director by September 10 of each year.

Awards: Certificates to be awarded at the Annual Convention.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST —MICHIGAN ONLY IMPROMPTU AND PREPARED SPEECHES

Purpose: To improve public speaking abilities of our youth.

Topics: Topics for impromptu speech to be given at time of speech.

Time Limit: Ten minutes to prepare speech after selecting topic, and up to five minutes to give speech.

Age Groups: 13-19, 20-29, 30+

Requirements:

1. At the close of their speech, the contestant will be asked one impromptu question about the content or topic, of their speech.
2. Contestants to compete at the Summer Youth Camp.

Scoring: The speech will be judged on content, addressing the topic, effectiveness and grammar. Scoring will also be determined on delivery and effect (opening, body, and conclusion, voice, state presence, expressiveness) and on the impromptu answer.

Judging: The judges will mark each contestant individually but

will take into consideration the group of contestants as a whole.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded for all 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Contestants will also be eligible for door prizes.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT CAMPS

The State Grange Youth/Young Adults will be holding two camps this next year. The first one will be held in July, starting on a Thursday night to a Sunday noon. The second will be a one day camp to be held in September, on a Saturday. Any Grange youth 14 years of age and over is invited to attend the camps.

Camp Rules:

1. The conference is for Youth and Young Adults—may be Grange member or non-member.
2. Non-members must be invited by a Grange youth or young adult.
3. All attendees must present a consent form, signed by parent or guardian.
4. All campers will pay the designated fee.
5. Attendees are required to follow rules, or must leave.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR — MICHIGAN ONLY

The State Grange Youth will be offering the Ambassador program to recognize two individual youth (one male and one female) that show achievement, participation and dedication to the Grange. Youth to be honored at the Annual State Session in October. May complete requirements to participate in the National Horizon Leadership Award program and attend the National Session in November.

Requirements:

1. Age limit — 16-21 years of age.
2. Previous Ambassadors are not eligible.
3. Must complete an application by the summer youth camp. Selection of Ambassadors will be made Saturday night of the summer camp.
4. Must complete three of the National Youth Achievement Awards or Seals.
5. Must be able to attend the youth activity days at State Session.
6. Preference will go to those that complete the requirements for the Horizon Leadership Awards and able to go to the National Session.

YOUTH ACTIVITY DAYS AT THE STATE CONVENTION

FRIDAY—Practice for opening of the State Grange on Saturday. Pizza party for all Youth and Young Adults.

SATURDAY—Opening of Grange session by youth officers. Saturday Evening Banquet.

MICHIGAN GROW CLUB

The Michigan GROW (Go Right on Working) Club includes past Ambassadors, Prince, Princesses, Youth Couple, Youth Officers, who attended National Grange, Key Award Winners, Outstanding Young Adult winners, Teenage Award Winners, Grange Recruiters, and Young Agriculturists. All these positions were or are in the Youth/Young Adult Program. GROW Club members are honored at a luncheon at the State Grange Convention. GROW Club pins are available.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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

The mission of the Michigan State Grange Historical Collection Committee is to collect, preserve and display, and otherwise disseminate knowledge, about those artifacts and manuscripts of historical significance which best represent the development and growth of the Michigan State Grange.

Dormant Grange records previously held at the Michigan State Grange headquarters have been catalogued and placed at the Michigan State University and the University of Michigan's Bentley Library for preservation. Records are available to those doing educational research, genealogy, also interested Grange members. We continue our pleasant relationship with leaders at both universities.

Grange memorabilia and artifacts have also been placed with the Michigan State University.

We have recorded many Subordinate Grange histories and we continue to record others as we find them. If you write a history of your Grange for an Anniversary or any other occasion send us a copy to be included in your records.

Several hundred Grange hall pictures have been identified, printed, and location listed, on this project in progress. We welcome the receipt of any Grange Hall pictures plus information regarding location.

The Past Masters notebook is another project in progress. The burial place of each deceased Past Master has been located, and pictures taken of the grave stones, including cemetery location. Historical information is included in the notebook about each Past Master.

With the closing of the State Grange Office, the many pictures that were there have been sent to the Bentley Library Archives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Before they were sent copies were made of many of them and they have been placed in plastic pages and put in notebooks. Naming people in the pictures and adding dates and locations is still being worked on and will be for some time. If you have a special picture from your Grange that you would like to have included in one of these books send me a copy by mail or e-mail and I will see that it is included.



2014-2015 Michigan State Grange Officers

Master	Chris Johnston
Overseer	Jeff Swainston
Lecturer	Sharon Popler
Steward	Ted Mudd
Ass't Steward	Timothy Johnston
L. Ass't Steward	Barbara Johnston
Chaplain	Kathryn Strouse
Treasurer	Kevin Young
Secretary	Peggy Johnston
Gatekeeper	Walter Murphy
Ceres	Nancy Swainston
Pomona	Karen Strouse
Flora	Tricia Eidsmoe
Exec. Comm.	Jackie Bishop
	Ron Ely
	Dale Moore

Michigan State Grange Webmaster

Connie Johnston
6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6647 (C)
E-mail ckream27@yahoo.com

Send any events or announcements for your Grange to Connie for the Website.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recreational Activities in Michigan for Grange members and friends include:

- Youth/Young Adult Camp — held in cooperation with the Juniors in the month of July.
- Junior Grange Camp — held in cooperation with the Youth/Young Adults in the month of July.
- Various conferences for Family Activities, Deaf Awareness, Lecturer's, Membership and Community Service.

Keep watch in the Michigan Grange News for further information on each of these activities

MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS

Granges are encouraged to send articles about their activities to be printed in the Michigan Grange News, the bi-monthly publication of the Michigan State Grange. The News is printed every two months. There will be 6 issues a year. Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, July/Aug, Sept./Oct., and Nov/Dec.

Copy due date is the 15th of the month prior to the issue date.

Attention Snow Birds

Members are asked to notify the Michigan State Grange office of changes in mailing addresses, thus assuring delivery. Winter Travelers may request mailing to their winter address. Please notify the Michigan State Grange of departure from and return to Michigan. Addresses are not automatically changed back and forth. It is your responsibility to make these changes, not that of the Secretary.

Emailing of the Michigan Grange News

If you would like to receive the Michigan Grange News by email instead of snail mail, please notify the State Grange Secretary. You must have high speed Internet in order to open it.

INSURANCE

AVAILABLE TO GRANGES AND GRANGE MEMBERS AMERICAN INCOME LIFE

Contact: Lisa Bennett Cell# 616-635-7554
-A-ccidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit
6789 Pleasant View Avenue, Rockford, MI 49341
www.alife.com Lmbennett@alife.com

FREMONT MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Contact: Robert Graham Tel: 231-923-0300
Discount to Home Owners and Farm Owners
933 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI 49412

JOHN HANCOCK FINANCIAL SERVICES

Contact: Brian Keys Tel: 517-349-8414
Long Term Care Insurance
2380 Science Parkway, Suite 103, Okemos, MI 48864

Why "Ritual" In the Grange

Someone has said, "Ritualism is an artistic expression, which makes the common clay a thing of beauty; which exalts our daily task from the humdrum to a place with the infinite."

The last paragraph of the preamble to the Constitution of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry states: "to those who read a right, history proves that in all ages society is fragmentary, and successful results of general welfare can be secured only by general effort. Unity of action cannot be enforced without significant organization; hence, we have a ceremony of initiation which binds us in mutual fraternity as with a band of iron; but, although its influence is so powerful, its application is as gently as that of the silken thread that binds a wreath of flowers."

Adherence to ritual, then, is the outward manifestation of inner discipline. Since man's first conscious effort to achieve general improvement through general effort he has been confronted with certain basic questions and in many ways is no nearer the answer today than he was five thousand years ago.

The most notably successful organizations in achieving permanence and continuity are those pertaining to man's relationship with God and the salvation of his immortal soul. Into this category falls the many religions of the world.

The second most successful, in terms of permanency and undeviating effort, are those organizations which seek to apply the principles of their religion to everyday life; that espouse a philosophy of brotherhood, mutual protection, instruction and association, but are not religious in the sense of spiritual fulfillment. Into this category falls the order of Patrons of Husbandry and many other notable fraternities.

Brotherly love and compassion cannot be achieved through legislation, nor can the principles of justice, truth and equality, be infused by executive decree; yet, adherence to these philosophies is the only hope for survival of civilization or the world.

Programs and policies of the Grange are conceived in the minds and hearts of men and women steeped in its ritualistic teachings and by them it is developed into a work plan or blue print for the achievement of general welfare through general effort, thus completing the fully globed orb of our fraternal oneness.

The teaching of the ritual, then enables us to accept the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man without sectarian complications; to press for the adoption of our programs and policies through every political means without partisan involvement and it brings us together in a harmonious relationship to work for the betterment of all people everywhere.

Ritual is the very foundation of our Order and a building can be no stronger than the foundation upon which it rests.

Taken from the archives:
C. Jerome Davis,
Past High Priest of Demeter



2014-2015 Michigan State Grange Junior Contest



NOTES