MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS

Volume XXXII NO.6 | USPS 345-580 | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2026

2026-2027 MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE OFFICERS



Back Row Kevin Young, Treasurer; Naomi Fletcher, Lecturer; Timothy Johnston, Steward; Chris Johnston, Master; Rich Hazen, Assistant Steward; Jeff Swainston, Chaplain; ***Front Row:*** Peggy Johnston, Secretary; Barbara Johnston, Flora & Executive Committee Chairman; Jackie Bishop, Executive Committee; Maria Lopez, Ceres; Dale Moore, Executive Committee Vice Chairman; Randy Cebulski, Gatekeeper; Mary Beth Bower, Pomona; Nancy Swainston, Lady Assistant Steward. Absent: Sharon Popler, Overseer.

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Michigan Grange News

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Nov. 3	**Election Day**
Nov 11	**Veterans Day**
Nov. 26	**Thanksgiving**
Dec. 25	**Christmas**





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Chaplain — Reflection, gratitude, hope

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Grateful Hearts, Hopeful Spirits, and Faithful Beginnings

As we move through Thanksgiving, celebrate Christmas and prepare to welcome a new year, we find ourselves in a special season of reflection, gratitude, and hope. These holidays may seem different in their purpose, but each one reminds us of an important truth. God has been faithful in the past, is present with us today, and will lead us into the future.

Thanksgiving invites us to remember our blessings. In the busyness of life, it is easy to focus on what we lack rather than what we have. We worry about unfinished tasks, financial pressures, family concerns, and the uncertainties of tomorrow. Yet Thanksgiving calls us to pause and recognize God's goodness. We give thanks not because every day has been easy, but because God has walked with us through both our joys and our struggles. Even the smallest blessings such as a shared meal, a kind word, a warm home, or the presence of a loved one, can remind us of God's abundant grace.

Christmas reminds us that we are deeply loved. The birth of Jesus is God's answer to a world longing for light, peace, and hope. In the humble setting of a Bethlehem manger, God entered our world not with earthly power or great fanfare, but as a child. Through Jesus, we are reminded that god is not distant from our struggles. God comes near to us. Christmas invites us to share that love with others through generosity, compassion, forgiveness, and kindness. The greatest gift of Christmas is not found beneath a tree, but in the Savior born for us.

The New Year encourages us to move forward in faith. As one year ends and another begins, we naturally look back at what has happened and wonder what lies ahead. Some of us will enter the new year with excitement and anticipation. Others may carry grief, disappointment, or uncertainty. Whatever the coming year holds, we do not walk into it alone. The same God who sustained us yesterday will be with us tomorrow. We may not know what the future brings, but we can trust the One who holds the future in His hands.

Perhaps these three occasions offer us a simple pattern for living our faith. Thanksgiving teaches us to look back with gratitude, Christmas teaches us to live in God's love, and the New Year teaches us to look ahead with hope.

As you gather with family and friends, celebrate the birth of Christ, and prepare for the year ahead, remember that every season offers an opportunity to grow closer to God. Let gratitude shape your attitude, let Christ's love guide your actions, and let faith give you courage for whatever lies ahead.

May we enter the new year with thankful hearts, renewed spirits, and a deeper commitment to serving God and loving our neighbors.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
~Psalm 107:1~

State Session Thank You's

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

State Session Thank You's

A huge THANKS to Region 3 for hosting another great session of the Michigan State Grange. Though the rooms may have been smaller than we are used to, we were certainly cozy! Please pass along our thanks to the church as well. Their service was fantastic, anything we needed, they provided. Thank you to everyone who brought some paper or hygiene products for our community service project, Pastor Phil was very thankful for them.

Thank you to all the delegates and members for their commitment in attending and session our policy. While I know location sometimes affects the attendance, it seems every year we have fewer and fewer attending. I would love to fill the hall with delegates and members from every Grange again. What ca we do to get our membership to attend?

I appreciate the confidence you have placed in the Legislative Policy Review Committee with reviewing their suggestions and approving them to bring our policy up-to-date. They still have some more work to do and will be bringing the rest of the policy to the floor next year. Of all the resolutions presented, we have one that will be forwarded on to National. It will be interesting to see how far it make it.

I'd like to congratulate all the winners in the department contests as well as those Granges that received certificate at the awards dinner.

National Session

Connie and I are currently getting ready to head off to the National Grange Session being held in Oklahoma. Though we are on firm soil this year, the schedule continues to be different from the norm we are used to, so we are exited to see what this session will hold.

Throughout the summer, the committees have been meeting over Zoom to review the current policy and any resolutions that may have come in so that we may bring them right to the floor. Though reviewing them through Zoom may have led to a few late nights with folks being over three different time zone, having them ready will save us from having some long nights at the session.

Directors

As mentioned in my annual address, I am still in need of a Legislative Director and Junior/Youth/Young Adult Director and with the retirement of Tricia Eidsmoe, a Membership Director. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these position.

Holidays

As the holiday season approaches, Connie, the boys and myself wish you Happy Holidays. May your holiday be warm, safe and full of love.



Region 3 5th Degree Team

Michigan State Grange Webmaster

Connie Johnston

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E-mail ckream27@yahoo.com
Send any events or announcements for your Grange to Connie for the Website.



Michigan State Grange 6th Degree Team

DEAF AWARENESS

Adopt-a-Child & Contest Winners

Peggy Johnston, Co Director
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Durand, MI 48429
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jklbmc@yahoo.com

Sharon Popler, Co-Director
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gma4hugs@hotmail.com

Michigan School for the Deaf
Adopt-a-Child Program

We are starting to receive names for the Adopt-a-child Program at Michigan School for the Deaf. So the fun is beginning.

Remember: if you take a child, you are asked to spend **$75.00** on him/her. All New Items. **Also, If you agree to take a child, make sure you can do the shopping** and either mail it to Peggy prior to the party or bring it to the party yourself.

The Christmas Party is planned for December 18th. We will be meeting with the boys and girls from 10:30—Noon.

This years contest were fairly easy ones to do, but entries were low. Keep watch in the next issue of the Grange News to what the contests are for Deaf Awareness. I'm sure they will be something that you can do early and not a last minute thing.

The poster contest this year had only two entries:
1st Place was Dale Moore, Burns Grange #160
2nd Place was Peggy Johnston, Burns Grange#160.

The flashcard craft had a few more entries.
1st Place: Connie Johnston, Gratiot Grange #1898
2nd Place: Sharon Popler, Burns Grange #160
3rd Place: Dale Moore, Burns Grange #160

Best of Show: Dale Moore, Burns Grange #160

LECTURER'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Sub. 1st. Place: Connie Johnston, Gratiot #1898
2nd Place: Kevin Young, Community #1675
3rd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160

Photography — Animals
Jr. Willow Hsu-Bishop, Home #129
Sub: 1st Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160
2nd Place: Kathy Hsu-Bishop, Home #129
3rd Place: Dale Moore, Burns 3160

Home Made Foods — Fruit Pie
1st Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place: Lena Young, Community #1675

Home Made Foods — Jams
1st Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160

Traditional or Unusual Family Recipe
1st Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160

Best of Show—Lecturers
Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689

Best of Show — Photography
Joan Hellmann, Pittsfield Union #882

Best of Show — Junior Photography
Willow Hsu-Bishop, Home #129

Certificates for Reporting :

Pomona Granges:
Mid Michigan #61
Lenawee #15

Subordinate Granges:
Gratiot #1898
North Adrian #721
Community #1675
Burns #160
Colon #215
Harbor Springs #730
Fredonia #1713
Studley #1174
Barnard #689



MSG Master, Chris Johnston, NG Board of Director chairman, Oregon State Master, Susan Noah and her husband Mark Noah, NG Representatives

Naomi Fletcher, President 14685 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878
Tel: (H)906-644-2319 (C)906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

Congratulations to all of the contest winners! We would really like to see more entries next year, so get started as soon as the new program comes out in January!

Winners, Winners, Winners

Tell Me a Story — Family
1st Place: Jackie Bishop, Home #129
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston
Brick Builds—
1st Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
2-Dimentional Puzzles —
1st Place: Eugene Fletcher, Burns #160
2nd Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
3-Dimentional Puzzles —
1st Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Fabric —Quilts, any size
1st Place: Fran Longsdorf, Burns #160
Fabric — Tote or Handbag
1st Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Fabric — Pillowcase
1st Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
2nd Place: Fran Longsdorf, Burns #160
Fabric — Miscellaneous
1st Place: Arlene Douglas, Burns #160
Yarn —afghans/blankets
1st Place: Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689
2nd Place: Lucile Bloom, Burr Oak #1350
Yarn — Miscellaneous
1st Place: Joan Hellmann, Pittsfield Union #882
2nd Place: Ladonna Kurburski, Harbor Springs #730
Thread — Embroidery
1st Place: Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689
Thread — Miscellaneous
1st Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
Handcrafted animals — crochet/knitted
1st Place: Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689
2nd Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
3rd Place: Ladonna Kurburski, Harbor Springs #730
Handcrafted Animals — Fabric
1st Place: Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689
America Turns 250 — Centerpieces
1st Place: Sandy LaHart, North Adrian #721
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Connie Johnston, Gratiot #1898
America Turns 250 — Ind. Place Settings
1st Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Coloring — Animals
1st Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Arlene Douglas, Burns #160
Coloring — Flowers
1st Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Fran Longsdorf, Burns #160
Coloring — Stained Glass
1st Place: Kathy Hsu-Bishop, Home #129
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Arlene Douglas, Burns #160
Collections — Any Kind
1st Place: Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689
2nd Place: Ladonna Kurburski, Harbor Springs #730
3rd Place: Jackie Bishop, Home #129
Art —Diamond Dots
1st Place: Karen Wolletz, Barnard #689
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Naomi Fletcher, Burns #160
Art– Painted Rocks
1st Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
Art—Miscellaneous
1st Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
Photography — Garden Scenes
1st Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
2nd Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
3rd Place: Tricia Eidsmoe, Studley #1174
Photography— Night sky
Jr: 1st Place: Winter Hsu-Bishop, Home #129
Sub: 1st Place: Joan Hellman, Pittsfield Union #882
2nd Place: Connie Johnston, Gratiot #1898
3rd Place: Kathy Hsu- Bishop, Home #129
Photography — America The Beautiful
Jr: 1st Place Willow Hsu –Bishop, Home #129
Sub.1st Place: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place: Chris Johnston, Gratiot #1898
3rd Place: Kevin Young, Community #1675
Photography —Friends
1st Place: Kathy Hsu-Bishop, Home #129
2nd Place: Sharon Popler, Burns #160
3rd Place: Dale Moore, Burns #160
Photography — Let's Celebrate
Jr. 1st Place: Winter Hsu-Bishop, Home #129
2nd Place: Willow Hsu-Bishop, Home #129

Continued on Page 4...

AGRICULTURE Winners & Report

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

Winners for the Agriculture Department:
Vegetables:
Potatoes —
1st Place — Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Winter Squash —
1st Place — Joanne Cebulski, Barnard #689
Carrots with tops—
1st Place — Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place — Dale Moore, Burns #160
Flowers:
Flower Bloom —
1st Place — Dale Moore, Burns #160
2nd Place—Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Other Categories:
Pumpkin, painted or decorated—
1st Place — Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place — Sharon Popler, Burns #160
3rd Place — Dale Moore, Burns #160
Pumpkin, carved and decorated—
1st Place — Dale Moore, Burns #160
2nd Place — Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Decorated Flower Pot—
1st Place — Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
2nd Place — Connie Johnston, Gratiot #1898
3rd Place — Dale Moore, Burns #160
Best of Show: Peggy Johnston, Burns #160
Decorated Pumpkin

Agriculture Annual Report

Worthy Master, First Lady, Delegates, National Reps, Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 153rd Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange!! It is hard to believe that it is time for yet another Michigan State Grange Session. Time sure goes by fast, where has 2026 gone!? I hope everyone has enjoyed my articles as at times I felt like I was just rambling on but at the time I was writing them it was what was on my mind. Agriculture in our Great State is a very important part of life and of the State Economy, and I feel honored to be the Director of the MSG Agriculture Department. It has been a very up and down year so far for Agriculture in our Country and it isn't over yet. As our elected officials that represent us in Washington DC still work on the new Farm Bill, we need to be mindful of the items that they may add or delete from it. We need to use our voice to let our State representatives know before it is too late that farmers are still struggling and we need to support the farmers more than ever as they continue to feed our Country and the World. We, the Grange, need to stand stronger than ever to let everyone know that the Grange is still alive and here to help our friends in Agriculture.

I look forward to seeing what entries will be in the Ag Department classes this year. It has been another strange growing season in 2026 and our garden did poorly. I hope to continue to bring you information on this Department that has meant so much to our Great Organization when it was first founded! I hope everyone enjoys the State Session and their stay in Three Rivers!!!

Fraternally, Kevin Young, AG Director

FUNDRAISING Report

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

Worthy Master, First Lady, Delegates, National Reps, Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 153rd Annual Convention of the Michigan State Grange!! This is a different annual report for me to be giving.

An ongoing project is the Grange Dollar collection. We will only tally the "G" dollars but if you want to contribute others, we will gladly take them too. I can't wait to see what you collected for this project. I know a few Granges have been collecting them but due to extra expenses at the Grange Hall, they have been depositing them to help their own treasury. At last year's State Session we collected a good deal of G Dollars so I hope we can collect just as many this year!

For those that do not wish to collect the Grange Dollars, we brought back "Pennies from Heaven" collection this year. We will take any amount of coins (or paper money) once again this State Session. Please keep in mind, a little bit collected is more than what we had a year ago! I will be taking any of the collected coins to my local Credit Union as they have a coin machine that tallies up what you dump in and prints out a slip to take to the Teller for cash. Then I will deposit it in the State Grange bank account!

Our annual big fund raising project was delayed for 2026 and will be kicked off at this year's Session. The drawing will occur at a special Michigan State Grange function that will be announced at some time during the State Session.

Continued on page 7

Community Service Winners

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Tel: 269-209-6640 Email: roccomaryann@yahoo.com

The Michigan State Grange Session has come to a close once again. I would like to thank all our Grangers who helped to promote Community Service in their communities during this year.

Granges, let's all think about one new project/ service we can do this next year for your community.

We have 20 Subordinate Granges and 10 Granges submitted Community Service Reports with over 30,000 service hours. Congratulations Everyone!!

Thank you to all Granges for promoting Community Service and taking the time to complete a report and summiting it to me.

2026 Michigan State Grange Community Service Winners

40 members and over

2nd Place — Pittsfield Union #882

1st Place — Fredonia #1713

Under 40 Members

3rd Place — Studley #1174

2nd Place — Burns #160

1st Place — Community #1675

The National Grange requests our 1st through 4th place winners. Based on total number of points from the judging. Following are the Granges recognized as the top winners.

4th Place — Pittsfield Union #882

3rd Place — Burns Grange #160

2nd Place — Fredonia #1713

1st Place — Community #1675

2026 Very Important Patron

There were no nominees this year.

*** Next Years Community Service Reports will be due on Friday, September 10th, 2027

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE



One of the Silent Auction Tables

Fund Raising continued from page 6...

There has also been some discussion on a fund raising project that is outside of the box for the Michigan State Grange. There is a possibility of raising money to be able to throw a "pie" (pie pan filled with whipped cream) at the face of a State Office or Director. More to come on this in the future.

Okay, that's enough for now but that covers all of the projects that have either happened or are ongoing currently. If you have any ideas for other projects, please let me know. We want to do things that we can draw from outside of the Grange as well. We know every Grange does some type of fundraising for their own needs, that's why we need to try to target outside funds too.

I hope everyone enjoys the State Session and their stay in Three Rivers!!!

Fraternally, Kevin Young, Fund Raising

MEMBERSHIP Winners

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

The membership program this year was simple—retain the members you currently have on your roster. These five Granges did just that by not dropping any members.

Barnard #689 Burr Oak #1350 Community #1675

North Adrian #721 White Pigeon #1345

There are twenty subordinate Granges in the state and reports were received from ten of them.

Barnard #689 Burns #160 Burr Oak #1350

Community #1675 Fredonia #1713 Home #129

North Adrian #721 Oceana Center #1047 Studley #1174

White Pigeon #1345

The membership year ran from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Eight Granges took in new members during the past membership year with three of them also having a net gain in membership.

Burns #160 —3 new members

Burr Oak #1350 — 1 new member

Fredonia #1713 — 1 new member

Oceana Center #1047 — 1 new member

White Pigeon #1345 — 2 new members

Colon #215—1 new member & net increase

Gratiot #1898 —1 new member & net increase

West Oshtemo #1630 — 1 new members & net increase

Thanks again to all Granges participating in the membership program! Keep up the good work!

I am stepping down as Membership Director. Please support the next person to accept this directorship.

FOUNDATION Annual Report

Naomi Fletcher, President 14685 25.75 Road, Rapid River, MI 49878
Tel: (H)906-644-2319 (C)906-399-2815 Naomi.fletcher54@gmail.com

Worthy Master, Honored Guests, Brothers and Sisters,

It is again my privilege to provide the Michigan State Grange a report of the state of the Michigan Grange Foundation on behalf of the full board.

Members of the Board of the Foundation include Jackie Bishop-Secretary/Treasurer, Asgeir Sigurdsson "OZ" - Vice President, Jeff Swainston-Director and Chris Johnston—Director. Each of these individuals have worked together in making major decisions on behalf of the Foundation. Thank you for your dedication to the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation's work has focused over the years on providing charitable contributions to such organizations whose purpose aligns with the aims and purposes of the Foundation. The Foundation also provides student loans to individuals seeking higher education in university, college or vocational arenas. In addition, the Foundation supports the work of the Grange through newsletter publishing and postage, and the work of the MSG Department Directors to carry out and develop programs relevant to today's Grange.

At last year's annual session, we announced the creation of the Roland and Beulah Winter Memorial Scholarship. Unfortunately, we did not have any applicants this year. We hope that individuals will apply for this scholarship recognizing excellence in education and growth. The application deadline is June 1 each year. Scholarships are open to any individual who wishes to continue their educational journey at an institution of higher learning, including trade and vocational schools. It is NOT limited to high school graduates. I want to emphasize ANYONE may apply. The funds utilized for this scholarship will be based on the interest earned on the Endowment fund and will be made available with the 2027-28 school year. I'm sure Roland and Beulah would be honored to be recognized with this scholarship and would encourage anyone to apply.

The work of the Foundation relies on the generosity of members and friends of the Grange through donations, bequests and repayments of student loans. Additionally, investments generate interest to assist in perpetuating the Foundation funds, allowing the Foundations to continue its work. The Financial Report is attached to this report for your review.

An additional item of note are the funds specifically dedicated to securing a monument commemorating Past State Master Jonathan Woodman. We are still working on making sure Brother Woodman is recognized in some way in Michigan.

As always, the Foundation thanks the Grange members and friends for their generosity over the years. Your donations assist in continuing the work of the Grange and the Foundation. As a 501 c3 organization your contributions are tax deductible.

Fraternally, Naomi Fletcher, Board President

Assets	
SILAC Annuity (9-11-2026)	180,880.34
American National Annuity (8-1-2026)	74,166.49
Checking Account	28,306.83
Student Loans	4,410.00
Total Assets	**287,763.66**
Allocated Funds	
Endowment Fund	102,465.34
Student Loan Fund	30,590.00
MSG Dir Prom & Dev. Fund	3,395.44
Michigan Disaster Fund	383.00
Jonathan Woodman Mem. Fund	2,043.00
Deaf Awareness Fund	277.50
Total Allocated Funds	**139,154.28**
Non Allocated Funds	**148,609.38**
Income	
Student Loan Income	590.00
Memorial Income	135.00
Investments Gain	20,818.90
Total Income	**21,543.90**
Expenses	
MSG Newsletter Postage	132.60
Corporation Filing	20.00
Total Expenses	**152.60**

***Includes 2 yrs. SILAC gain.**

MSG FOUNDATION,
Jackie Bishop, Sec/Treas.
479 Tuscany Drive
Portage, MI 49024

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

$ _____

_____In Memory

In Memory of: _____

____Birthday

____Anniversary

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip_____ ____ Deceased

Donations made by: _____ ____ Other

Thank you for your Support!