

PUG Times



The newsletter of the Pittsfield Union Grange

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September 2021

Message from the President

Here is it late summer, and COVID-19 is surging again. We Grangers are meeting, but not having programs announced to the public. Life is more open than it was, but it is still very far from normal. Some of our renters are back in the Grange, but not all. Sometimes I feel as if, for someone like me, who lives alone with no family nearby, this is the worst of both worlds, because there are fewer activities online but not that much in person, either.

I once wrote a message about the Grange motto "In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; in All Things, Charity." I like the motto. It expresses what we need for a democracy or republic to function. Right now, though, it is under stress, because our country is divided over whether vaccination is an essential or not. I believe that it is, but obviously not everybody agrees, and while I'm pretty sure that everybody who comes to meetings of the Pittsfield Union Grange does, and I'm happy that both the national and the state organizations have encouraged vaccinations, I'm not so confident that all the Grangers in Michigan and elsewhere agree. And my ability to think charitably about those who think liberty includes the liberty to endanger other people is pretty much gone. Somehow, I think we have to try, not to compromise, but not to lose that charity, not to wish for them to get sick or die. Many pundits have pointed out that we think of national crises as bringing out the

best in us, and this one clearly has its heroes—but for many of us, maybe most of us, it's made it even harder to work together.

That what's I thinking about as I try to think of resolutions for the state session.

Events

Events are still pretty sparse. Adult dances are still on hold, but may start sometime in fall. Proof of vaccination will be required.

Wed - Sun, Sep 1 - 5 - Saline Fair

Maybe you'll get this PUG Times before it's over. If so, please come and visit the Grange booth in the Merchants' Building.

Wednesday, September 8 - Grange Meeting

Potluck at 6:30, program is socializing and dreaming up resolutions for the State Grange Convention. Business meeting follows.

Saturday, October 9 - Apple Day

We will hold Apple Day for cider pressing by members and friends, 10 am - 3 pm. Let Joan know if you need a bushel of cider apples (734-274-0773)

Wednesday, October 13 - Grange Meeting

A member of Preemie Pals will tell us about their project to provide quilts for children in the hospital. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15.

Thu Eve - Sat, Oct 21 - 23 - State Grange

Wednesday, November 10 - Grange Meeting
Program TBA. Potluck at 6:30

Friday, December 17? - Holiday Party

Chelsea and 4 -H Fairs

The Chelsea Fair is on this year. Helen and Joan have been spending several hours each day in the Grange booth. Quite a few people come by and recall square dancing years ago. Several asked about Apple Day.

PUG donated cookbooks and hand knitted dish cloths (by Sylvia) as prizes for the champion homemakers and as door prizes for Ladies' Day.

Prices at the animal auction were high. The least expensive stter was \$2/pound, hog \$2.75, and lamb \$4.75. Not so long ago, \$4/pound for a lamb was high. No chickens, goats, or rabbits were sold this year.

The daughter of the Allens, who were Grange members years ago and lived across the street from Joan's house, stopped by. She reminisced about shoveling the snow for the previous owner of Joan's house, and running through the back yard to the woods (where condos now are).



The Washtenaw County 4-H Fair met in abbreviated form in July. Ruth and Joan spent an interesting Saturday afternoon judging the some still exhibits, which the entrants brought for judging and took home on the same day.

Wing Farms Open House

Long time Grange memebers will remember Barb and Leroy Wing, who farmed land at the corner of Dexter and Zeeb. Leroy died some years ago, and Barb died last year, but the farm is going strong. Kevin and Stacey Wing, Barb and Leroy's son and daughter-in-law, and Brandon, their grandson, are running the operation now. In addition to the big fields on the SE and NE corners of Dexter and Zeeb, they own land along Miller and West Delhi.

Their giant pumpkins are well known, as there are signs advertising them around the area. They also raise beef cattle (about 25/year), turkeys (600), and frasier firs for Christmas trees. All are available directly from the Wings. (wingfarms.com)

Stacey says that turkeys are very sensitive to drafts and cold, so they live inside a barn. They are not caged, and their running area expands as they grow.



The newest endeavor is growing rye and corn for Two James Distillery. The alcohol is distilled in Detroit, but then it comes back to the Wing's farm in barrels for storage and aging. That barn - the metal-sided building one sees from the road - has a nice whisky smell. (twojames.com)

(See next page for photo of the barrels.)



The Hall Was Busy

Hall use picked up significantly in summer, after being mostly empty for a year. Some of the regular users have started meeting again, and two new renters were glad to have found a good place for summer activities.

Ice Cream Social

In anticipation of starting up the contra dance series in fall, we held an ice cream social for vaccinated Grangers and members of the community on the regular July Grange contra evening. Mostly, it was a chance to eat ice cream, see friends, and hear a bit of live music, but there was also a little bit of dancing.



A home school theater groups used the Grange stage to present a production of Pride and Prejudice.



Flipside Camps held seven weeks of daily art day camp.



Sadly, virus numbers started to go up again, and resuming contra dancing has been put on hold. When it restarts, proof of vaccination will be required.

We also have a new regular user starting after Labor Day - a senior line dancing group, which will meet two afternoons a week.

With not much to report, I have an entire page left. Here are some reminders of benefits of being a Grange member.

Healthcare

Our partnerships with Comfort Keepers, one of the top companies in the eldercare industry, Life Line, and the Medical Air Services Association are sure to give you peace of mind about your health. Our partnerships with Hear in America and American Hearing Benefits offer members access to free annual hearing screenings and consultations as well as discounted hearing aid prices to ensure Grangers have hearing care available to them.

- Comfort Keepers
- Life Line Screening
- Medical Air Services Association (MASA)
- Hear in America
- Healthcare Exchange
- American Hearing Benefits
- eHealth Medicare

Pharmacy

CVS Caremark offers the RxSavings Plus Card. The U.S Pharmacy Card is a free discount prescription card available to Grangers. Also, a partnership with National Affinity Services allows access to the public subsidized government marketplace. U.S. Pharmacy Card offer excludes members in NC.

- U.S. Pharmacy Card
- Rx Pharmacy Card provided by CVS Caremark (also for pet prescriptions)

Travel Hotel Car Rentals

With discounts from Choice Hotels, Wyndham Hotels, Hertz, Avis, and Budget rental car services, as well as other hotel and rental car businesses, these exclusive Grange benefits are sure to help you when planning your next vacation.

- Orlando Member Discount
- Wyndham Hotel
- Choice Hotels
- Rental Car Discounts
- Exclusive Grange Worldwide Hotel and Car

Rental Discounts Program Harvest Hosts

Shopping

We have partnered with Office Depot/Office Max, Shop.com, and The Azigo Cash-Back Shopping Mall. When you shop at these locations or use these services, you are giving back to the National Grange and receiving special deals in the process.

- Office Depot/Office Max
- TSYS Merchant Solutions

Insurance

We have partnerships with United of Omaha Life Insurance Company and MetLife Home and Auto Insurance to give our members discounts on insurance rates and deals. Excludes Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and North Carolina. Members receive exclusive discounts on programs including The TotalProtect® Enhanced Home Warranty, which helps protect National Grange Members from the high costs associated with home repair from Cross Country Home Warranty. INFOARMOR ID Theft Insurance helps protect the identities of Grange Members. It provides comprehensive, proactive identity theft defense, which includes Social Media Reputation Monitoring and Free Credit reports. The program is backed by AIG and is discounted for our members.

- VPI Pet Insurance
- Cross Country Home Warranty
- MetLife Home and Auto
- United of Omaha Life Insurance Company
- InfoArmor (Identity Protection)

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