

PUG Times



The newsletter of the Pittsfield Union Grange

Volume 8, Number 4

October 2009

Resolutions

Robin Warner's message from the president.

Grange members have a system that they can use to express their wishes and opinions. The process is the system of resolutions. Members, through their local and Pomona Granges, submit resolutions on topics like agricultural or conservation laws at the state or federal level. Resolutions can also address the by-laws or policies of the State or National Grange.

These resolutions are considered at the State Grange Session each year in October. First each resolution is assigned to a committee. The committee considers the resolutions assigned to it and reports to the general session. The delegates to the general session discuss, then vote on, each resolution. The resolutions that pass are dealt with at the state level if they are about Michigan state law or if they address Michigan State Grange by-laws or policies. If they concern federal laws or National Grange by-laws or policies they are forwarded to the National Grange Session in November for further consideration.

This year Pittsfield Grange has submitted two resolutions to the State Grange and Wayne Washtenaw Pomona has submitted the same two. The first one involves the collection of dues. In the past, Granges used to collect one quarter of the dues every three months, so the State Grange collected one quarter of its annual dues on the same schedule. Now most if not all
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Upcoming Meetings and Events

Sun, Oct 11 – Preserving Traditions

Topic for this month is apple turnovers. Free for Grange members; \$5 for non-members. Sign up at <http://appleturnovers.sign-up-sheet.com/> 2:00-4:30.

Wed, Oct 14 – Grange Meeting

Plant pathologist Linda Hanson talks about cases where history has been affected by plant diseases. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15, business meeting following.

Thu-Sat, Oct 15-17 – State Convention

Delegates from Granges around Michigan meet in Marshall to make policy decisions, and perform ritual. Fifth and Sixth Degree ceremonies on Friday night.

Sun, Oct 18 – Family Dance

John Freeman, David Park Williams, and Ed Vincent call dances suitable for (grand)parents and children, to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. \$12/family (\$10 for Grange members). 2 pm

Sat, Oct 31 – Fall Work Day

Grangers and friends get together to do routine maintenance and cleanup tasks. 9 am until mid-afternoon. Lunch provided. Contact Richard for more info.

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Granges collect dues once a year but the State Grange still collects quarterly. Our resolution proposes that a full year's dues be paid to the State four times per year for all members who have paid their dues in that quarter. This simplifies the work of the local membership secretary and still gets money to the State Grange in a timely manner for those who join the Grange during the year. This resolution was proposed by our membership secretary.

The second resolution involves a national policy. The National Grange has just defended their right to the name Grange against Tyson Foods, who tried to gain exclusive use of it with regard to food. Now they are faced with the job of policing the use of the name by other organizations. A restaurant named The Grange Kitchen and Bar has opened in Ann Arbor. After we became aware that this restaurant was going to open we consulted our State President and he said that the National Master would handle it. We asked to be kept informed but we have not heard anything unless we asked directly and even then only small bits of information. In the meantime, The Grange Kitchen and Bar has opened for business and started advertising, often being called the Grange, and we have been asked not to contact them. In response to this situation we are proposing a resolution that asks National to address the misuse of the Grange name by the "Grange Kitchen and Bar" and keep presidents of the Pittsfield Union Grange, the Washtenaw/Wayne Pomona Grange and the Michigan State Grange informed of their progress and success in a timely fashion.

If you decide to attend the State Grange Meeting, which is being held in Marshall this year, you can attend the committee that is discussing one of these resolutions because one of our members proposed a resolution that people attending the State Grange Convention be allowed attend committee meetings even if they are not delegates from their Grange or Pomona. The delegates to State Session discussed and passed the resolution.

Sun, Nov 8 – Preserving Traditions

Topic for this month is sauerkraut. Free for Grange members; \$5 for non-members. Sign up at <http://kraut.sign-up-sheet.com/>.

Wed, Nov 11 – Grange Meeting

Program TBA. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15, business meeting following.

Sun, Nov 15 – Family Dance

John Freeman, David Park Williams, and Ed Vincent call dances suitable for (grand)parents and children, to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. \$12/family (\$10 for Grange members). 2 pm.

Tue-Sat, Nov 17-21 Natl Convention

Delegates from state Granges across the country gather in Grand Rapids to make national Grange policy, and perform ritual. This is a nearby opportunity to attain the Seventh Degree.

Fri, Dec 11 – Holiday Party

Pittsfield Grangers and friends gather to celebrate the season. Potluck supper at 6:00. Carols, recorder performance, games, and good cheer. Bring a \$10 present if you wish to participate in the traditional grab bag.

Sun, Dec 20 – Family Dance

John Freeman, David Park Williams, and Ed Vincent call dances suitable for (grand)parents and children, to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. \$12/family (\$10 for Grange members). 2 pm.

Sun, Jan 10 – Preserving Traditions

Topic for this month is tamales, led by Sylvia of Pilar's Tamales. Free for Grange members; \$5 for non-members. Sign up at <http://tamales.sign-up-sheet.com/>.

Wed, Jan 13 – Grange Meeting

Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15, business meeting following.

Sun, Jan 17 – Family Dance

John Freeman, David Park Williams, and Ed Vincent call dances suitable for (grand)parents and children, to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. \$12/family (\$10 for Grange members). 2 pm.

Chelsea Fair

This year was a very successful Chelsea Fair for Grangers and friends.

Barb Wing's granddaughter Hannah raised the reserve champion feeder calf and grandson Nate raised the reserve champion pair of hogs. Hannah's pair of hogs won second place in the middleweight class, and Nate's steer came in third in the medium light weight class. Ryan Koenn (Herman's greatgrandson) won intermediate lamb showmanship and his lambs were the second place heavyweight pair. Mackenzie Herrst (Elizabeth's granddaughter) won junior hog showmanship and had the sixth place heavyweight pair.

Helen Welford, Elizabeth Herrst, Mary Sexton and Joan Hellmann entered many classes in the baking, flower-arranging, sewing, antiques, photography, and agricultural competitions, and came away with a total of ___ ribbons, including 10 blue ribbons for first place. The really exciting news is that Helen won a champion sewing rosette for her 1834 dress and a state fair qualification rosette in the bathrobe class.



Helen's robe with rosette

The Grange booth was in the long merchant's building this year, as the one where we have been in the past is now used for the Miracle of Life display. We almost didn't get to see a calf being born, as the first one came in the middle of the night and the second one arrived about an hour before the close of the fair. We enjoyed

visits to the booth from several Grangers and a number of farming friends.



Veterinarian assisting as calf is born.

Helen and Joan shared the purchase of a lamb this year, and got an excellent price for one of the first place heavyweight pair. An excellent price for us, though, indicates that the economic downturn is affecting business support of youth at the fair.



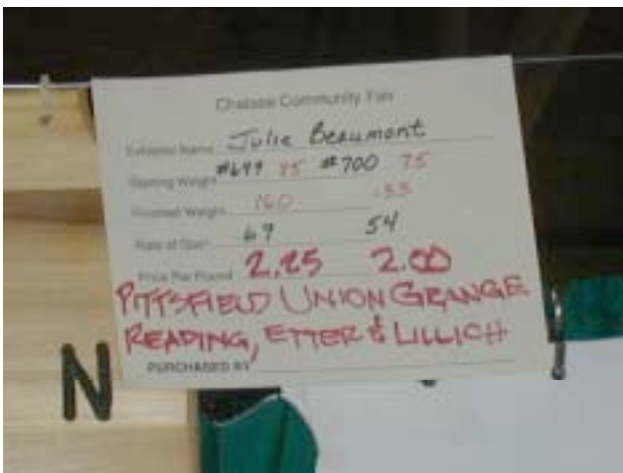
Helen's dress with Best of Show Rosette



Mary's prizewinning vegetables at Chelsea



Helen and Joan's Chelsea sheep



Our lamb was the rate of gain winner.

Saline Fair

2009 was the fourth year PUG participated in the Saline Fair, and each year we become more involved. For the first time, we donated prizes to Ladies' Day, and put Family Dance information into the hands of each family at Preschool Day on Thursday.



Grange booth at Saline Fair

One new activity this year was Farmer John, who did several shows of humor and information about farm animals. He had a number of young animals that children could pet and feed.

Helen and Joan went to the animal auction with the intention of watching and comparing prices to those at Chelsea. However, the hog prices were low enough to induce Helen to bid, and now many pounds of pork are stashed in her freezer.



Helen's pig

Apple Day

Three cider presses and two grinders were busy all day on Saturday, September 26. From 10 am until 4 pm, there were only a few moments of idle time. The weather turned out better than forecast, and the clouds seemed to keep the wasps at bay. Bill Lutz sold cider grade apples and quite a few people came with apples from their own trees. The Grange trees had a good crop, and many batches included a child-picked Grange apple for that extra snap.



Grinding the apples by hand

Grinding the apples with the electric grinder.



Besides pressing cider, participants tasted a variety of fresh and dried apples, bought baked goods, helped make applesauce, sampled cider sorbet, and maybe even tried a family dance.



Tightening the press



The finished product.



Making applesauce.

PUG thanks the 4-H volunteers and friends of the Grange who helped with the work!

The Pittsfield Preserve

Mike Ryan, Maintenance Supervisor of Pittsfield Township Parks, joined us in September and presented a program about the Pittsfield Preserve. The preserve was created in 2002, when a developed wished to create a small city near the intersection of Marton and Textile Roads.. Opponents to this plan were elected as township officials and the township bought 535 acres of farmland.

The preserve has several distinct areas, making up several habitats. Some of the old fields are being rented to farmers, who are painting corn and soybeans. Others have been planted in prairie grass. Several areas have buttonbush swamp, which is a good place for groundwater to work its way down to the aquifer.

Some acres in the southwest corner have been used to house a new township water tank, and land next to that has been developed into a park with pavilion, restrooms, and crushed limestone trails which are ADA accessible. Other parts have been left in a more natural state, but invasive plants such as garlic mustard and buckthorn are being removed.

Parking lots have been built off Marton and Thomas Roads, so that the public can enjoy exploring the preserve.

Joan's note: The Preserve is a good place to look for black raspberries, abandoned apples, and pears, and is reputed to have blackberries, too.

Dues for 2010

This is the first reminder that 2010 dues are officially due on or before the January meeting. Checks made out to Pittfield Union Grange can be mailed c/o Hellmann, 208 Murray Ave, Ann Arbor 48103 or brought to the meeting. The rate is still \$40/person or \$70/family. Life is much easier for the membership secretary/treasurer (who hates to be a nag) if dues are paid promptly.

Food Gatherers Barrel

There is a barrel for donations to Food Gatherers in the basement next to the Grange display. Please bring non-perishable items that are not out of date, and encourage others to do so as well.

Grange Store

Pittsfield Grange is selling several new items. Preserving Tradition "Yes. We Can." aprons and packs of canning labels are available through Downtown Home and Garden, with all profit being returned to our Grange. Other Preserving Traditions items - T shirts, tote bags, mugs, magnets - are available through the web at <http://www.cafepress.com/preservetrad>. The second edition of the PUG Apple Cookbook, now coil-bound, and the 2010 Michigan Grange Calendar are for sale at Grange events. Michigan quarter medallions, small and large, are also available. Sharing Our Best Cookbooks are currently out of stock, but may be available in the future. Consider Grange holiday presents!

Price List for Items for Sale at Grange:

2010 Calendar	\$10
"YES. WE CAN." Apron	\$25
"YES. WE CAN." Canning Labels (12)	\$ 3
PUG Apple Cookbook	\$ 5
Michigan Quarter Large Medallion	\$10
Michigan Quarter Small Medallion	\$ 1

Grange contacts:

Robin Warner, President 734-426-0241, robin@ic.net
Helen Welford, Hall Rental 734-426-0241 welford@umich.edu
Joan Hellmann, Treasurer/Membership 734-769-1052, hellmann@umich.edu
Linore Latham, Community Service/Secretary 734-769-6152, linore@umich.edu
Richard Raymond, Hall Maintenance 734-662-9290, rraymond@umich.edu
David Wilson, Program Chair 734-699-7623, djw1ls0n@sbcglobal.net