

The official publication of the NC State Grange

May/June 2016

# GRANGE NEWS





# 10 MedAssist

- 3 **A Note From Jimmy**  
NC State Grange President
- 4 **Award Winning Recipes**  
From the 2015 State Convention
- 6 **From Joyce**  
**National Convention**
- 7 **Notable Grangers**
- 8 **Capitol News**
- 12 **Scholarship Recipients**
- 14 **Gotcha Covered**

## State Officers

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Program Director	Laurie Barnhart
Steward	Missy Mueller
Assistant Steward	Raymond Hayes
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Josh Barfield
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Greeter	Martha Suther
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
Flora	Carolyn Jernigan

## Board of Directors

Chairman	Robert Cayton
Vice Chairman	David Allen
	Vinnie Duncan
	Carlton Barefoot
	Bobby Crawford
	Charles Forrister
President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Emeritus	Hubert Hege

## Department Heads

Family Living Activities	Joyce Clodfelter
Insurance Programs	Mark Davis
Membership Director	Jessica Horton
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Joyce Clodfelter
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

## Events

Winter Youth Conference	
	February 12-14
Family Conference	
	March 11-13
South Eastern Regional Conference	
	TBD
Grange Camp	
	July 10-16
State Convention	
	September 15-18
National Convention	
	November 15-19

## 2016-2017 Quilting Contest

The National Grange Quilt block contest is one key to help us share the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange in 2017. The idea behind the contest is to create a vehicle for our members and those who have not yet joined the Grange to share their creative talents. Small monetary prizes will be awarded. Please check [nationalgrange.com](http://nationalgrange.com) for rules and entry information.



The General Assembly is now in the 2016 short session and there seems to be some momentum toward giving teachers a pay increase. If a pay increase is granted, the question will be how much and how will it be distributed to new teachers verses those who have been in the classroom for a long time. Teacher salaries have suffered during the last several years of economic downturn. Some increases have been granted, but more is needed. This year, it appears that the General Assembly will have access to the revenue needed to boost teacher salaries.

I took a look at the 2015-16 salary scale for teachers with a Bachelor Degree. For a new teacher, it begins at \$35,000 per year. At 25 years of service, the salary is \$50,000, and it maxes out at that point. After 25 years of service, a teacher only makes \$15,000 per year more than a beginning teacher. At this point, the state takes advantage of them because the salary scale remains the same after 25 years. Full retirement is 30 years. So teachers are caught in a no win situation in which they need to make 30 years, but there will be no rise in salary during those last 5 years unless the General Assembly grants a new increase.

There are ways that teachers can have their salaries boosted. They can get advanced degrees or they can become board certified which offers some salary benefit. Some school systems also offer local supplements to their teachers.

Recently, I had a conversation with an agriculture teacher in our state that is leaving after this school year to teach in a different state. I do not think she wants to leave North Carolina, but she is doing so for a higher salary. She said she would make \$15,000 a year more in the other state. As parents and grandparents,

we want our children exposed to the best and brightest teachers that can be found. We have high expectations for our educators, and rightly so. They are under a tremendous amount of pressure to perform, and they are operating under a lot of school system expectations, requirements, and regulations. They are expected to act as professionals at all times while teaching, working with parents, and administrators. The problem is we do not pay them the kind of salaries that you would expect trained professionals to receive.

The NC State Grange has been a long standing supporter of teachers and public schools. Our legislative policy states, "We support teacher salaries that are commensurate with professionals of equal educational training." It is time to boost teacher pay, and it should be done during this 2016 session of the General Assembly.

It is difficult to know how fast the General Assembly will take to conduct business during this session. By the time you receive this issue of *Grange News*, if the General Assembly has included salary increases for teachers in the budget, then we applaud them!

---

North Carolina Grange News (USPS 392-780) is the official publication of The North Carolina State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy, Statesville, NC 28625 and is published bi-monthly. The yearly subscription cost is included in the annual membership dues for members of The North Carolina State Grange. ISSN # 0279-5914—Periodical Postage Paid in Statesville, NC and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The N.C. State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625.

*The Grange is a grassroots, community service, family organization with a special interest in agriculture and designed to help meet the needs of people, young and old, through a cooperative effort with government and other organizations that also seek the greatest good for the greatest number.*





# BLUEBERRY OAT COOKIES

NADIA PUNT, TROUTMAN GRANGE  
1ST PLACE YOUTH BERRY COOKIE

---

1/2 CUP BUTTER, SOFTENED  
1 CUP PACKED BROWN SUGAR  
1 EGG  
1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT  
1-1/2 CUPS QUICK-COOKING OATS  
1 CUP ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR  
1 TO 2 TEASPOONS GROUND CINNAMON  
1/2 TEASPOON SALT  
1/2 TEASPOON BAKING SODA  
1/4 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER  
1 CUP FRESH OR FROZEN BLUEBERRIES

IN A BOWL, CREAM BUTTER AND BROWN SUGAR. BEAT  
IN EGG AND VANILLA.

COMBINE OATS, FLOUR, CINNAMON, SALT, BAKING  
SODA AND BAKING POWDER; GRADUALLY ADD TO THE  
CREAMED MIXTURE.

STIR IN THE BLUEBERRIES.  
DROP BY HEAPING TABLESPOONFULS 2 IN. APART  
ONTO LIGHTLY GREASED BAKING SHEETS.

BAKE AT 350° FOR 12-14 MINUTES OR UNTIL GOLDEN  
BROWN. REMOVE TO WIRE RACKS TO COOL.

## BLUEBERRY PIE

PEARL WARREN  
WESTBROOK GRANGE  
1ST PLACE ADULT  
BERRY PIE

8 CUPS BLUEBERRIES  
1/2 CUPS SUGAR  
1/4 CUPS CORNSTARCH  
1 TABLESPOON LEMON JUICE  
2 TABLESPOON UNSALTED BUTTER  
1 LARGE EGG YOLK  
1 TABLESPOON HEAVY CREAM  
2 PIE CRUST DOUGH

PREHEAT OVEN TO 400 DEGREES. GREASE A BUNDT PAN VERY WELL AND SET ASIDE.

PLACE ROLL OF DOUGH INTO A 12-INCH ROUND PIE PAN.

PLACE BLUEBERRIES IN A LARGE BOWL; WITH YOUR HANDS, CRUSH ABOUT 1/2 CUP OF BERRIES, LETTING THEM FALL INTO THE BOWL AS YOU WORK.

ADD SUGAR, CORNSTARCH, AND LEMON TO BERRIES; STIR TO COMBINE. SPOON INTO PIE SHELL.

DOT TOP WITH PADS OF BUTTER. PLACE TOP DOUGH OVER FILLING. PRESS EDGES TOGETHER. CRIMP AS DESIRED.

USING A PARING KNIFE, CUT SEVERAL VENTS IN TOP OF DOUGH TO ALLOW STEAM TO ESCAPE.

IN A SMALL BOWL, WHISK TOGETHER EGG YOLK AND CREAM. BRUSH SURFACE WITH EGG WASH. REFRIGERATE 30 MINUTES. PLACE IN OVEN AT 400 DEGREES, WITH RACK IN LOWEST POSITION. BAKE ABOUT 20 MINUTES, REDUCE HEAT TO 350 DEGREES AND CONTINUE BAKING 40 TO 50 MINUTES.

## PEANUT BUTTER MICROWAVE FUDGE

CLAY RAPP  
ARCADIA GRANGE  
1ST PLACE YOUTH  
NUT CANDY

1 BOX POWDERED SUGAR  
2 T BUTTER  
1/3 C MILK  
1 C PEANUT BUTTER

PLACE SUGAR, BUTTER, AND MILK IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL. COOK IN THE MICROWAVE 2 MINUTES ON HIGH. TAKE OUT, BEAT INGREDIENTS WITH HAND MIXER UNTIL COMBINED. SPREAD IN FOIL LINED 8X8 PAN. LET COOL THEN CUT.

## SWEET SOUTHERN SWEET POTATO PIE

GLENDIA CROCKER  
GRANTHAM GRANGE  
1ST PLACE ADULT  
SWEET POTATO PIE

### FILLING:

2 SWEET POTATOES  
1 AND 2/3 CUPS WHITE SUGAR  
3/4 CUP EVAPORATED MILK  
1/2 CUP BUTTER MELTED  
1/4 DARK CORN SYRUP  
2 EGGS, LIGHTLY BEATEN  
3 TABLESPOONS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR  
2 TEASPOONS VANILLA EXTRACT  
1 TEASPOON PUMPKIN PIE SPICE  
(I CHANGED THIS FROM THE ORIGINAL RECIPE WHICH CALLED FOR APPLE PIE SPICE.)  
1/4 TEASPOON SALT  
1 (9 INCH ) UNBAKED DEEP DISH PIE CRUST

### CRUST:

2 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR  
1 TEASPOON SALT  
2/3 CUP BUTTER  
5-7 TABLESPOONS COLD WATER

### PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES

BAKE SWEET POTATOES IN OVEN FOR 30 TO 45 MINUTES UNTIL SKINS ARE LOOSENED AND MASH POTATOES WITH MASHER.

BEAT IN SUGAR, EVAPORATED MILK, BUTTER, CORN SYRUP, EGGS, FLOUR, VANILLA EXTRACT, PUMPKIN PIE SPICE, AND SALT INTO SWEET POTATOES ABOUT 5 MINUTES. (I DIDN'T BEAT AS LONG AS THIS RECIPE CALLED FOR. I WANTED THE SWEET POTATOES TO BE A LITTLE MORE VISIBLE.)  
POUR INTO PIE CRUST AND  
BAKE 50 TO 60 MINUTES

### PIE CRUST:

PUT FLOUR INTO BOWL WITH BUTTER  
CUT THE BUTTER INTO THE FLOUR  
ADD SALT AND WATER.  
MIX UNTIL DOUGH IS FORMED AND  
ROLL OUT ON FLAT SURFACE.

# FROM JOYCE!

Joyce Clodfelter, Community Service & Family Living Director

State Convention will soon be here! The next four months will pass rather quickly. Please be thinking about what you would like to enter; especially those of you entering the baking contest. Plan ahead and be ready. Look at the rules, especially the entry deadline. Remember my goal for baking is 100 entries! We can do this!

A reminder to all juniors and youth: Your categories changed so be sure and look at the rules for 2016. Your judging is on Saturday. We made this change in hopes that more of you will enter. What you make you will get to eat, so come on and show us what you can do! I am looking forward to new entries, with new faces this September!

A reminder, the community service project for the North Carolina State Grange is the *Pajama Project*. Our State Convention is coming in September and items for the project are to collect and bring pajamas and books for underprivileged children from birth to age eighteen.

I have been in touch with Sue Myers who is the Raleigh Chapter President of the NC Pajama Program. She has informed me that we do not necessarily need a book with each pair of pajamas, so just collect as many of each as you can before convention in Sep-

tember. Remember, these children probably have never had a new pair of pajamas or a new book that they can call their own. You may leave the pajamas on hangers or place all of them in a box or boxes. I hope we will have an abundance of each to present to them at convention. Winter pajamas will soon be gone at marked down prices, so look for them now. You should still check out Kohls, Wal-Mart, Target, Old Navy, Dollar Tree, etc. for pajamas; and any dollar store, Sam's, BJ's and, Barnes & Nobles for books on sale.

We also need to remember that the National Grange has a Community Service Project. It is *New Socks & Soles -For-Souls (Shoes/Boots)*. I would ask that each Grange consider this important need of those less fortunate during the months ahead and that we would have a number of shoes and socks to take with us to National Convention in November. Remember, we are heading to the edge of Washington, DC and I hope to see many of you there.

Have a wonderful summer!

## VIDEO CONTEST!

Get out your cameras or even your phones and put together your own amazing four-minute-movie celebrating Grange! And here's the best part: The prizes are sponsored by the National Grange Foundation!

The top three finalist will receive up-to a \$200 travel stipend, Friday and Saturday night accommodations at the 150th Annual Session of the National Grange in Washington DC, and two tickets to the celebration banquet where the winning movies will be shown and first, second, and third place awards announced!

All entries will be judged on content, quality, and creativity. The top seven videos will be part of a social media popularity vote September 1 - September 15, 2016, with the top three favorites moving on to the finalist round at National Session in Washington, DC on November 19, 2016.

Visit [nationalgrange.com](http://nationalgrange.com) for full information and directions on entering this contest!



MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS TO  
ATTEND THE  
**150<sup>TH</sup>**  
CONVENTION!  
NOVEMBER 15-19, 2016





# NOTABLE GRANGERS

## La Rue Alligood

Reprinted from Caroline Hudson,  
*The Washington Daily News*



La Rue Tart

Ray and Eleanor Edwards have been married since 1943. He grew up in Chocowinity, and she grew up in Grimesland. The two, now in their 90s, still reside in Washington.

“Both of us were kind of new to the insurance business back then, and we both kind of grew into it together,” said LaRue Alligood, a longtime employee and now the owner. “You just had to build from nothing, so that’s basically what we did. We started from nothing.”

Alligood said she still has fond memories of cooking in a kitchen in the back room at the Respass Street location, sharing meals with coworkers and inviting weekly guests to come join. Edwards treated everyone like family, employees and customers alike, she said.

In March 2002, Alligood took over the business upon Edwards’ retirement, gradually assuming responsibilities over a 10-year period, as his family had no interest in running it. Already a seasoned employee, it was a smooth transition. She also decided to move the business to its Highland Drive location in 2008.

“I pretty much knew what to do,” Alligood said. “The only thing that I did change was moving out here. Down there on Respass Street, I really had no parking or anything.”

The Highland Drive location was formerly a pharmacy, so Alligood said she utilized the built-in drive-thru for customers to make relatively quick transactions, such as policy payments. Other than that, however, she said Edwards built a strong business and she intends to keep it much the same, the name included.

“I don’t see the point in changing it, and I hope down the road it stays that way,” Alligood said. “We’ve tried to build our business on service. ... That one thing he’s always emphasized was service with the customer. You had that contact during the year with that person.”

Alligood is continuing on the Edward Ray Edwards legacy, and she now has longtime, loyal employees of her own. More importantly, she said she still looks forward to coming to work every day, and as long as her health permits, she will continue to do so.



Eleanor & Edward Ray Edwards

*\*La Rue Alligood, is a long-time member of Beaufort County Grange, where she currently serves as the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairman. Edward Ray and Eleanor Edwards are also both members of Beaufort County Grange.*

Do you have members with accomplishments or great stories? Send them to Jessica Horton at [jlhorton@ncgrange.com](mailto:jlhorton@ncgrange.com)

The 2015-16 NC General Assembly short session began on April 25th. Short session primarily is held to tweak and finalize the proposed budget for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. Presently, the House appropriations subcommittees are meeting to finalize their roughly \$22 billion dollar budget which should roll out by the end of this week. (May 16th) Following the House's decision, the Senate will begin their work on the budget. Governor McCrory's proposed budget adjustments are outlined below. His proposal will increase spending by 2.8% or \$22.3 Billion.

### Responsible Budget Management

- No tax or fee increases proposed in this budget.
- Increases the total savings reserve account to \$1.4 billion, or nearly 7 percent of overall state spending, by adding \$300 million to the state's rainy day fund. Since 2013, North Carolina has nearly tripled the savings reserve, making it the largest in state history.
- Caps total spending at \$22.3 billion, representing a modest spending increase of 2.8 percent. This increase is below last year's increase of 3.1 percent and below the rate of population plus inflation.

### Strengthening Education

- Increases average teacher pay in North Carolina to more than \$50,000 for the first time in state history by providing an average 5 percent pay increase.
- Provides an average 3.5 percent bonus for teachers and principals with a greater share going to veteran teachers. This will equate to a \$5,000 bonus for our veteran teachers with more than 24 years of service.
- Establishes a scholarship program by investing \$2 million to attract 300 new, highly qualified math and science teachers to earn degrees and teach math and science in the state's public schools.
- Builds on our commitment to position North Carolina as one of the first states in the nation to connect all classrooms to robust Wi-Fi by 2018, empowering schools to trade textbooks for tablets.
- Expands funding by nearly \$6 million to provide scholarships for an additional 300 special needs students.
- Provides support services to ensure community college students graduate with a credential or degree.
- Establishes a new competitive merit

scholarship program for students pursuing science, math and health degrees at our universities to help fill the shortage of skilled workers in these fields.

### Enhancing Public Safety and Supporting the Military

- Devotes \$21 million to increasing pay for State Troopers, Correctional Officers, State Bureau of Investigation Agents, Alcohol Law Enforcement Agents, Assistant District Attorneys, and Assistant Public Defenders.
- Enhances the safety of our children at school by investing \$2.8 million to support the development and maintenance of school safety plans and to deploy a statewide application for students to anonymously report threats at school.
- Connects our military veterans with jobs by establishing a new disabled veteran cyber security apprenticeship program with the Department of Information Technology.
- Uses technology to detect and prevent prisoner access to cell phones.
- Safeguards law enforcement communications by replacing the outdated monitoring system for the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) network enabling law enforcement to more effectively communicate and respond during emergencies.
- Improves criminal justice intelligence capabilities by investing in a case management tool that gives law enforcement officers information and analytics to solve crimes.

### Increasing North Carolina's Competitiveness and Promoting Job Growth

- Revitalizes North Carolina's small town main streets through matching grants for local governments.
- Implements recommendations from the Governor's Food Manufacturing Task Force to promote and develop economic growth opportunities in the food manufacturing industry, and fosters the growth, development and sustainability of family farms.
- Helps North Carolinians learn and earn at the same time by expanding business apprenticeship opportunities through additional investments in the NCWorks Apprenticeship Program.
- Leverages our university research advantage to attract venture capital and a new generation of entrepreneurs, as well as help retain North Carolina's

home-grown talent through the University Innovation Commercialization Grant Program, as recommended by the Governor's Innovation to Jobs initiative.

- Establishes the Rallying Investors and Skilled Entrepreneurs (NC RISE) program to develop and leverage existing entrepreneurial management talent and recruit world-class investors and skilled entrepreneurs to the state, as recommended by the Governor's Innovation to Jobs initiative.

### Protecting Public Health

- Invests \$30 million to implement the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use, including transitional housing, case management, mental health first aid training, child crisis centers, tools to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic, as well as evidence-based specialty courts, including drug and veteran treatment courts.
- Provides \$3 million to expand Medicaid services for older adults, including those with Alzheimer's disease, by adding 320 new slots to the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults.
- Increases funding by \$1 million for family caregiver support services, including respite care for caregivers.
- Invests \$2.5 million to expand Medicaid services for people with developmental disabilities and children with Autism. This investment supports an additional 250 Medicaid Innovations Waiver slots providing the needed services to help individuals with developmental disabilities live successful lives in the community.
- Provides recurring funding to support the education of future health care professionals at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.
- Makes North Carolina a national leader in preventing, preparing for and responding to the Zika virus and other vector borne diseases.

### Connecting North Carolina through Transportation and Critical Infrastructure

- Provides \$155 million for the Repairs and Renovations Account to maintain state infrastructure.
- Supports implementation of the Connect NC initiative.
- Preserves our unique environmental



resources and promotes good stewardship by investing vital water resource projects including: dredging, navigation, flood control, beach protection and stream restoration. State investment in water resources projects will leverage more than \$25 million in federal funds.

- Builds on the largest transportation investment in two decades by adding nearly \$30 million for new transportation projects in the state's current ten-year plan. Since 2013, North Carolina has increased investment in new roads by more than \$292 million, or 31 percent.
- Provides an additional \$27.5 million for highway maintenance activities to enhance safety and ease congestion.

#### **Leveraging Technology to Promote Transparency and Security**

- Promotes transparency and accountability by implementing an updated and integrated online education program for individuals covered under the State Ethics Act.
- Protects the public against identity theft and data loss by providing tools to create a multilayer identity verification platform in the Department of Revenue.

#### **Rewarding State Employees**

- Provides an average 3 percent bonus for all state employees and school support staff. Each agency head in consultation with OSHR will determine the allocation
- Provides an additional \$27 million to the Salary Adjustment Fund, for a total of \$40 million to help recruit and retain the best and brightest state employees.
- There are a few pieces of current legislation that may interest our Grange members. These bills along with one resolution are outlined below:

**Senate Resolution 746 Board of Agriculture Confirmation.** SR746 confirms appointments made by the Governor to the Board of Agriculture. Appointees are Anne Faircloth of Sampson County as general farming representative; Faylene Whitaker of Randolph County as fruit & vegetable representative; and James Lambeth of Richmond County as poultry representative. SR746 has been referred to the Senate Nominations Committee for consideration.

**SB870 Refine Sales and Use Tax on RMI** filed by Senators Bob Rucho, Bill Rabon & Jerry Tillman. If passed, SB870 would provide a grace period for under collection of sales and use tax on repair, maintenance and installation services and refine the application of sales and use tax on repair, maintenance and installation services.

**HB1069 2016 North Carolina Employee Protection Act** filed by Representatives George Cleveland, Debra Conrad, Chris Millis and Chris Whitmire. The proposed legislation states that **HB318 (SL2015-294) Protect North Carolina Workers Act**, as originally filed, would have amended the definition of "employee" in the State E-Verify statutes to exclude farm workers, independent contractors, or certain individuals who provide domestic services; and would have amended the definition of "employer" in the State E-Verify statutes to include persons who employ five or more employees in this State. However, in the wake of the enactment of HB318, "what was meant to be a narrow exception to accommodate law enforcement has been exploited by various groups who have held ID drives and launched other efforts to entice individuals to obtain the forms of identification whose use was meant to be largely prohibited" under HB318. Under HB1069, the term "employee" does not include a farm worker and a "farm worker" is defined as "An individual who maintains farms, crops, or livestock by doing physical labor or operating machinery under the supervision of a farmer, rancher, or other agricultural manager. The term includes those who perform tasks related to growing and harvesting grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, Christmas trees, and other agricultural crops but does not include those who merely plant, transplant, or transport trees. Agriculture Alliance of NC

#### **News from Capitol Hill**

The NC State Grange has taken part in federal legislation in support of Medicare Part B issues and against a new proposal and payment model by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (CMS) Our NC State Grange policy is stated as follows: We encourage the federal government to simplify the Medicare Part D program and to provide drug formularies that reduce all medication costs for Medicare recipients. Our concern is the proposed new ruling may drastically change how medications are paid for under Part B. This proposal would include "infused or injected" medications sometimes referred to as complex Part B drugs. These drugs include sophisticated biologic drugs that are administered in a clinic and/or a hospital setting. The concern is that it may "reduce" prescription drug costs, but it could unintentionally reduce Medicare patients' access to necessary medications for conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, macular degeneration and others. Patient access could be affected by having fewer drug choices avail-

able in a clinic setting, and by fewer clinics actually offering Part B drugs.

This proposal by CMS has received harsh criticism from physician groups, patient advocates and policymakers. Over 100 patient advocacy organizations which includes the Alliance for Patient Access have authored a letter to CMS asking that the agency withdraw the proposal and keep intact the ability for our nation's oldest and sickest patients to continue to be able to access the best and most appropriate drugs and services for their health issue.



Washington Monument in DC

# Food or Medicine?

## NC MedAssist solves the dilemma

---

Do you have friends or neighbors that struggle to pay for their medication because they are uninsured? There is help for them.

NC MedAssist is a statewide non-profit pharmacy that provides free prescription medicine to low-income, uninsured North Carolinians. People can enroll in the pharmacy program through one of two ways. They can visit their local free clinic or health department to see if they are in the NC MedAssist network or call MedAssist and enroll via the mail. Prescription medications will be sent directly to the patient's home address. To help identify potential patients in the Raleigh area and educate the community on the Free Pharmacy Program, NC MedAssist partnered with OxnerPermar, LLC, Saint Augustine's University and the NC Grange on April 22 to bring a free Over the Counter Medicine Give Away Day to Wake County residents.

Over 1300 people were served during the Give Away Day at Saint Augustine's University. Each participant received \$80 worth of over-the-counter medicines which included vitamins, pain relief, children's cough medicine, first aid and much more. The Give Away was open to anyone who struggles with purchasing staple medicine cabinet items. NC MedAssist helps to fill a single-mother's medicine cabinet which enables her to 'heal' her child's scraped knee with a Band-Aid.

Give Away Days are completely volunteer run. At the April 22nd Give Away Day, Over 200 generous volunteers served as personal shoppers, answered participants' questions and flawlessly helped serve everyone before the doors closed at 2:00 pm.

The Give Away Day brought awareness to the fact that there are still 360,000 people in North Carolina without insurance coverage. NC MedAssist was able to identify those who needed help with their prescriptions and to confirm their eligibility. In order to qualify for the Free Pharmacy Program, a person must be uninsured and earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level – that's \$22,540 a year for an individual or \$48,500 for a family of four.

NC MedAssist's goal is to supply essential medicines to those in need and to improve the health of North Carolinians one prescription at a time. NC MedAssist dispenses more than \$32 million worth of free prescription medication to 13,000 low-income North Carolinians each year. People are often in a life threatening crises when they come to MedAssist.

Eva Carter\*, a NC MedAssist patient, depends on her medication to survive. After recently losing her job at a major bank, she was consequently left without insurance. She is diabetic and insulin dependent. After her job loss in July, she had enough insulin to last a couple





months, but didn't know what to do when it ran out. She was so grateful to find MedAssist, because without this help, she doesn't believe she would be alive today.

NC MedAssist is not only improving the health of low-income, uninsured patients, but also increasing their ability to be economically self-sufficient. On average,



patients receive approximately \$500 worth of medication from MedAssist every month, which represents a third of their monthly income. Without NC MedAssist, patients would have to choose between buying their medications or buying food, paying for rent. 84% of NC MedAssist patients have income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. NC MedAssist eliminates this choice, allowing patients to live a more productive and self-sufficient life.

For Seniors needing advice on the right Medicare plan for them, individuals can call and ask to speak to the Senior Care specialist. The Senior Care program is a pharmacy resource for adults 65 and over. If Medicare Part D prescription benefits are depleted during the year, seniors can utilize the program to learn about other prescription medication options. NC MedAssist provides free consultation services to seniors regardless of income levels.

As a charitable pharmacy, NC MedAssist operates through the generosity of caring individuals and volunteers. How much does it cost to save a life? For only \$144 dollars a year, a NC MedAssist patient can receive medication for an entire year. To donate, please visit [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org) to give today.

To learn more or to volunteer, please call Brenda Vass at 704-536-1790 or visit our website at [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org). NC MedAssist, 4428 Taggart Creek Rd Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28208, Toll Free: 1.866.331.1348, [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org)

# 2016 New Scholarship Recipients



**Troutman Grange**

Attending:

UNC-Wilmington

Major: Creative

Writing & Film

*Margie Griffin*



*Kathryn Elton*

**Troutman Grange**

Attending: Mitchell

Community College

Major: Poultry Sci-

ence/Veterinary School



*Rylee Furr*

**St. John's Grange**

Attending:

NC State University

Major: Chemistry/

Dental School

**Troutman Grange**

Attending:

UNC-Charlotte

Major: Undecided

**Ranger Grange**

Attending: Appalachian

State University

Major: Biology &

Physical Therapy



*Kellee Dayne*

**Troutman Grange**

Attending: Mitchell

Community College

Major: Agriculture

Business



*Mable Griffin*



*Kameron Forrester*



## Morgan Warrick



Josh Jernigan

**Grantham Grange**  
Attending: NC State  
University  
Major: Civil Engineering



**Arcadia Grange**  
Attending: Catawba  
College  
Major: Exercise  
Science



Tandon Woolard

**Beaufort Co. Grange**  
Attending: East  
Carolina University  
Major: Civil Engineering

## GRANTHAM GRANGE HONORS COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

By: Joyce Hood

In observance of April National Grange Month, Grantham Grange held its 5th Annual Community Service Awards dinner on April 25, 2016 at Selah Christian Church in the Grantham Community. Special guest speaker was Mrs. Betsy Huber, National Grange President. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award was awarded to Sue Hill (*posthumous*) by NC Governor, Pat McCrory and was presented to members of Sue's family by NC State Grange President, Jimmy Gentry.

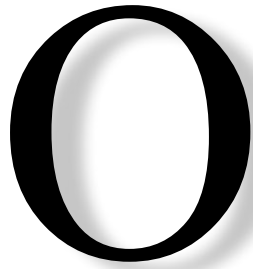


## TROUTMAN GRANGE HOSTS ART SHOW & OPEN HOUSE

By: Gay Shaver

April 15, 2015, Troutman Grange #1292 sponsored their first annual art show and Open House. With the help of art teacher, Ms Allison Levis; third grade, fourth grade and fifth graders from Troutman Elementary School were invited to enter our contest. The title was "What does Farming Mean to You?" Winners were: third graders; 1st Angellina Taylor, 2nd Christopher Mattei, 3rd Jaira Pyrant; fourth graders 1st Sara Whitner, 2nd Tangeisha Glaspy 3rd Kamryn Smith; fifth graders 1st Michael Burry, 2nd Jaxon McClain, 3rd Ariana Chavez. Grand prize winner was Zachary Vinson (3rd grader).

# COUNTRY FOLKS CAN SURVIVE!



ur NC State Grange Program as well as our NC State Grange agents have experienced a seriously challenging start this year with our BlueCross BlueShield income as well as in providing service to our agents and many clients. Going into the Open Enrollment Season – November thru February – we anticipated that sales would not be equal to the previous two years due to several reasons such as less numbers of potential uninsured prospects, double digit rate increases, product(s) restrictions in certain areas, etc. These “knowns”, when combined with BCBSNC updating/changing their computer platform simply caused a system overload and begin to shut the process down and created numerous hours of opportunity to memorize the “on hold” theme song for both clients and agents trying to assist their customers. I have made the analogy many times over the last several months to explain what has happened at BCBSNC as being like an old wagon going down the lane carrying three large barrels of fish hooks. The wagon hits a rut in the road, which bounces the barrels up and OFF the wagon. When the barrels hit the road, all three shatter and fishhooks are everywhere. Now the whole wagon train has to stop and attempt to get the barrels back together and then, one by one picking the fishhooks up to make sure they get in the barrel they actually belong in. Did I forget to mention that at two of the barrels were full of treble hooks. I do not know if you have ever tried to untangle a couple of treble hooks or not, so if you have not, take my word for it – it is not fun and you can count on being stuck at least once or twice in the process. Needless to say, I have had to remind many of our agents of that old Hank Williams Jr. song about Country Folks CAN Survive. Several of us have adopted that song now as our theme song as we go forward.

The NC State Grange currently relies heavily on our BCSBNC income to support Grange activities. For the last few years, we have kicked around many ideas on how to diversify the NC State Grange income resources. These ideas have ranged from starting our own insurance company for auto coverage, create association(s) with other auto carriers, credit/banking opportunities, etc. We also wanted a program that would utilize our existing agency force and create more value for them as well as a NC State Grange agent. After much research, the NC State Grange in partnership with the GP Agency is proud to announce a new NC State Grange Program – The Income Protector. This program will target the small business owner and workers, professionals, the self-employed, and farm families. This coverage is most often the missing component of the insurance package. There are several reasons for this gap that we hope to minimize with our new program – the biggest being education of the product(s) and ease of availability. We will have access to multiple companies that will give us a wide range of tools to bring this underserved group coverage to protect their income should adversity strike. This program is designed to be a perfect three legged milk stool – good for the client, good for the agent, and good for the NC State Grange.

The NC State Grange hosted a series of meetings across the state beginning March 15 through March 24 in Greenville, Raleigh, Morganton, Waynesville, and Greensboro for our agents. We will also be doing some one-on-one agent training as well as we move forward. We will also be available to present a program about the Income Protector Program for your local Grange or civic group. If you or someone you know could benefit individually from being introduced to this new program or have any questions about this new program, give us a call and we will be delighted to assist in every way possible.





## PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

The Youth Photo Scavenger Hunt is a program that has been developed by the 2016 Youth Team to provide a new activity for Grange youth and young adults to share their Grange story.

Photos will be judged by a panel of judges selected by the 2016 National Grange Youth Team.

For information and rules visit [nationalgrangeyouth.org/youth-programs/photo-savenger-hunt/](http://nationalgrangeyouth.org/youth-programs/photo-savenger-hunt/)

# Resolution Submission Deadline

By: Laurie Barnhart

Please remember that the deadline for submitting resolutions for the 2016 Annual Meeting is July 18th. All resolutions should come directly to me via email – [lbarnhart@ncgrange.com](mailto:lbarnhart@ncgrange.com) or by mail – 2516 Winterbury Court, Raleigh, NC 27607. This deadline is extremely important. Please understand we cannot accept them after this date.

The resolution process as you know is an extremely important component of the NC State Grange. It is our opportunity to make a difference in the legislative process and to make our voices heard. Thank you.

## State Grange Supports Small Business Healthcare Relief Act

By: Jimmy Gentry

Effective July 1, 2015, new federal laws were placed into effect that makes it impossible for small employers to cover the costs for employees who have individual insurance plans. Violators are subject to penalties of \$100.00 each day. The only way that employers can provide health insurance is through group plans. Employers with fewer than fifty employees had to make the decision to either offer group plans, or discontinue offering health insurance to employees. The disadvantage of group plans is if an employee leaves the company, the health insurance is cancelled. With individual policies, an employee can keep their insurance after leaving the company if they pay the premiums.

The Small Business Healthcare Relief Act (S. 1697 / HR 2911) would allow small employers to provide Health Reimbursement Arrangements to help pay for employee insurance premiums. The State Grange supports this legislation. Employers should have the flexibility of offering either group plans or individual plans, depending upon preference, cost, and employee needs.

The bill has been assigned to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions in the US House of Representatives. Rep. Virginia Foxx from North Carolina serves as a member of that committee. The State Grange has submitted a letter to her encouraging support for this legislation.

## In Memoriam

Ms. Doris Hall  
Mr. John Blue  
Mr. French E. Rogers, Jr

Associate Member  
Greenwood Grange  
Edneyville Grange

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. Psalm 138:28 \* 50 Year Member*



North Carolina State Grange  
1734 Wilkesboro Hwy  
Statesville, NC 28625  
(704) 878-0000  
[www.ncgrange.com](http://www.ncgrange.com)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID



**GRANGE CAMP**  
**2016**  
**JULY 10-16**  
register at [ncgrange.com](http://ncgrange.com)