

The official publication of the NC Grange

March / April 2022

# GRANGE NEWS

## OBX

2022 Family Conference



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17-19	Eastern Regional Conference, Washington DC
July 10-16	Summer Camp, Eastern 4-H Center
September 15-18	State Convention, Durham, NC

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.

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## A NOTE FROM JIMMY: TOGETHER

Our Family Conference went really well this year. It was well-attended; the hotel was nice; and the service was great. We learned, we played, and we had a great time together. In this case, *together* is the key word. It was two years ago when the day before Family Conference was to begin, we had to cancel because of Covid. It was so good to have the Grangers of NC together again.

I would venture to say that many of us joined the Grange because we are social beings. We like to be among others in a common bond. Serving others through community service is what we are about. It provides us with purpose while adding joy and meaning to our lives.

I began my professional career in Montgomery County and lived in a small town called Troy. While there, I joined the Jaycees, which at the time was an organization for young men. At each meeting we would recite the Jaycee Creed. The first line is, "That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life." Skipping to the last line, "...and service to humanity is the best work of life." While I was a Jaycee, this organization also was very much about community service.

The Grange organization fulfills a need that exists in many of us. The organization provides us a social life along with service opportunities and the chance to expand our leadership abilities. Our lives become richer through our interactions with our fellow members.

Going back to Family Conference, the workshops were educational, the speakers informative, and the games were fun. Memories were made. For a few hours, we even dressed in Hawaiian attire for dinner and bingo! The result of the conference will be better Granges because of what we learned and the excitement that was created. Perhaps it will also lead to new members joining our efforts so that they also can be part of the "best work of life."







## 2022 FAMILY CONFERENCE by: Jessica Horton

### KITTY HAWK, NORTH CAROLINA

Grangers gathered together for the much-anticipated Family Conference, March 17-20, in Kittyhawk, NC. It was almost two years to the day that the world shut down in 2020 causing us to cancel the event due to the pandemic. Everyone was delighted to finally arrive at the beautiful Outer Banks to 70-degree weather and lots of friends. Many members remarked that this felt like one big family reunion.

Over 120 Grangers from as far west as Hendersonville, NC, made the trek to learn, listen, explore, and fellowship with one another for the weekend. This year, the NC Grange Board elected to extend the conference by a day, beginning it on Thursday instead of Friday. Grangers gathered Thursday evening for a welcome to start the weekend followed by games led by NC Grange Program Director, Bobbie Dellinger. The evening concluded with an activity in which attendees were given phrases from song lyrics with a goal to find others holding lyrics to the same song. Their goal was complete when all lines of their song were found, which proved to be a fun challenge!

Friday morning's program began after a delicious breakfast. NC Grange President Jimmy Gentry led a panel of members representing Granges that managed to stay active during the pandemic. This panel was comprised of Melanie Hudson of St. John's Grange, Judith Barnes of Westbrook Grange, John Karriker of Corriher Grange, John Crawford of Grantham Grange, Margaret Martine of Ferguson Grange, and Julia Stack of Cape Fear Grange. Each panelist was given the opportunity to speak about the projects their Granges have been doing the last few years. They also answered questions about staying active and offered details about their programming. Margaret Martine made the comment that spring and summer are wide open to host outdoor meetings

**"SPRING AND SUMMER  
ARE WIDE OPEN FOR  
OUTDOOR MEETINGS"**

- MARGARET MARTINE,  
FERGUSON GRANGE

for Granges still hesitant to meet in person in an indoor setting.

Next was a presentation from Laurie and Jeff Barnhart. They

detailed many of the items the NC Grange has lobbied for on behalf of its membership. Several of those items in the past year include funding for NC A&T University, 4H Centers, the NC Caisson Unit and Healing Transitions.

Lastly, Jessica Horton presented updates on the Grange's 2022 Contest Guide. In the fall of 2021, staff and department heads met to make changes to this year's contests. After several hours of discussion, the only major changes made were to the Grange of the Year application, due dates for all notebook and folder entries, and the photography categories.

The 2022 Contest Guide can be found at [www.ncgrange.com/contest-entries](http://www.ncgrange.com/contest-entries). All on-site contests for State Convention (photography, craft, baking, art) will be available for online registration starting in July.

Between speakers, Jennie Gentry, NC Grange Youth and Young Adult Director, led the group with entertaining games. Many laughs were had as Grangers wore sombreros, tossed ping pong balls, and wrapped each other in crepe paper! After the morning activities, Grangers were free to explore the Outer Banks for the afternoon. Some took the opportunity to enjoy a warm walk on the beach while others explored lighthouses and visited the Wright Brothers Museum.

On Friday evening, Grangers gathered for an evening of trivia, organized by the young adults. Questions spanned





decades of music, all genres of television, geography, pop culture and history. The winning team gained bragging rights, saltwater taffy and a photo with a trophy shovel!

Saturday morning began with a peaceful ocean-front breakfast on the pier. Attendees then gathered for the program where they heard a wide variety of speakers starting with Bryan Evans, Executive Director of the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He spoke about the great partnership the association has with the Grange, and spoke highly of NC Grange President, Jimmy Gentry.

Evans was followed by James Lamb, the 2020 Sunbelt Farmer of the Year and member at Taylor's Bridge



Grange. He spoke about growing up on the farm and taking it over unexpectedly at age 16. He also described working with innovated technology. On top of farming, Lamb handles all environmental compliance for 61 farms in North and South Carolina for Prestage

Farms.

The third speaker was North Carolina Treasurer, Dale Folwell. He spoke about his efforts to make hospital pricing more transparent and encouraged everyone to visit [NCCash.com](http://NCCash.com) to collect any unclaimed money being held at the Treasurer's office.



The final speaker of the morning was Shane Smith, CEO of Smithfield Foods. A native of North Carolina, Smith grew up in Wayne County before attending Mount Olive University as an undergraduate. He spoke about the innovative ways Smithfield is conducting business and the family atmosphere their company promotes. After a very interesting and informative morning, everyone was able to enjoy another afternoon of free time by the ocean.



Grangers gathered Saturday for a Hawaiian-themed evening. Attendees showed up to dinner donning their best tropical looks! It was so fun to see everyone dressed for the occasion! After a sunset dinner on the pier, the talent show kicked off inside the hotel. Kayla Laws of Bushy Fork Grange won first place youth with her lyrical dance routine. The vocal group Canaan Land sang, winning Best in Show and will perform at the Evening of Excellence at the National Convention in Reno this November. The group is made up of Shirley Edwards, Jimmy Martin, and LaRue Tart of Brogden and Grantham Granges. The evening concluded with an exciting bingo game filled with funny prizes and much socializing.

State Grange Chaplain LaRue Tart concluded the weekend with a lovely worship service on Sunday morning. She described how our hearts work involuntarily and shared scripture and stories all relating to the heart. The service ended with the group Canaan Land singing the hymn "He Lives."

Grangers departed as if it were a family reunion with lots of hugs, smiles, and kind words such as "be careful driving home," and "see you in September!" The staff heard many wonderful comments about the conference with attendees looking forward to the next time they will reunite.



# AUTUMN WHITAKER

## Named New Young Adult Patron

by: Jennie Gentry



Earlier this year, a group of young adults met for a weekend retreat to plan a new Young Adult Program for the State Grange. This new committee decided to appoint someone to serve as Young Adult Patron to not only represent our young adults on a national level, but to also help create the program and responsibilities of this leadership role for our state. This will also include creating a selection process to fill the position in the future.

Whitaker started attending Grange Camp as a Junior and grew up in the youth program. She served in 2021 on the State Youth Team and as State Youth Pomona. She also received the State Grange Leadership Award and the Best Role Model Award at Grange Camp last year. She impressed her adult chaperones with her character, work ethic and growing leadership capabilities. The Young Adult Committee is very excited to see Whitaker in action while she leads this year and while she serves as a mentor to the new Youth Team. "We believe Autumn has the motivation, the energy, and the experience to serve as our first Young Adult Patron. We are proud to have her represent us, and we know that she is going to do an amazing job this year," stated Young Adult Committee Co-Chair, Brittany Beshears.

We are excited to announce that Autumn Whitaker has been named the NC Grange's first Young Adult Patron, a position she will serve throughout 2022. Whitaker was appointed to the position by a special committee of Young Adults who were responsible for selecting this year's Youth Leadership Team. They felt that she would be a great person to fill the position and to help start this program for our state. The announcement was made at the Winter Youth Conference in February.

The Young Adult Patron Program replaced the Young Couples Program several years ago by the National Grange. Instead of sending a married couple to represent a state at National Convention, a state can send either a married couple or two single young adults. These young adults then participate in an interview and activities at the National Convention for a chance to be selected to serve as the National Grange Young Adult Patrons, much like the Youth Ambassador program.

Outside of helping to create this new program for our state, some of Whitaker's responsibilities this year include mentoring youth, helping lead activities, helping plan young adult events, serving on the new Young Adult Committee, and serving as a leader at our state youth events. She will also represent the young adult program at the Regional Conference in Washington, DC, and the National Convention in Reno, NV.

Whitaker, a member of Little Mountain Grange, will be transferring this fall to the University of NC Wilmington to study forensic science. She is originally from Boonville, NC, where she has played volleyball most of her life and now helps coach. She enjoys serving her community, reading, science and spending time with friends and family. We look forward to having her represent our new young adult program this year.



# Grange Young Adult Program to Launch

by: Jennie Gentry

An enthusiastic group of Grange members gathered for a weekend retreat in January to develop a new Young Adult Program for the NC Grange. After several Zoom meetings, it was decided that meeting in person would be the best way to create the program. The weekend together resulted in new missions, plans, and excitement for the future of the program.

The vision of this program is for young adults to come together collectively to serve communities and build connections. The focus will be on six core values including networking, friendship, service, leadership, agriculture, and advocacy. The plan is to start building the program by bringing young adults together for a series of social events this year that will include meeting new people and serving together. As the program builds and continues to form, a wider variety of activities and programs will be included.

The Young Adult Committee will lead the program, overseeing the planning and implementation of activities for young adults. This committee will be led this year by two co-chairs: Brittany Beshears of Winston Salem and Anna Liles of Ellerbe. Both chairs have served for several years as chaperones for the youth program.

Our first event is being planned for May 14, 2022, in the Raleigh area. As plans are finalized, an email will be circulated with information to attend. The committee is also working on a packet of program information including awards, activities, and contests that young adults can participate in this year, which will be available by our May event.

We have extended the age range for this program, which is 21 to 40 years. We plan to hold a wide variety of events in the future to gather and enjoy time together. Some events will simply be for young adults, and other events will be family-specific so that parents can bring their children. We will strive to have something for everyone to enjoy and are open to any suggestions. You can also contact Jennie Gentry, director, to be added to the young adult email list.

The mission statement for the program is: to bring together young adults of diverse occupations and provide opportunities to help them to grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking, support, and national recognition. We encourage anyone in this age group to join us for future events and to be part of this program. We are very excited to give young adults the opportunity to build relationships, have meaningful experiences in Grange, and impact communities together.



# Spreading Positivity at Winter Youth Conference

by: Jennie Gentry

Anytime our Grange youth gather together, you are sure to have an incredible time, and that is exactly what happened at this year's Winter Youth Conference. Held February 18-20 at the beautiful Camp Caraway in Asheboro, youth gathered for the retreat to learn, serve, build leadership skills, and spend time with friends. After not having the conference in 2 years, it was wonderful being back at the event.

The theme for the weekend was "Thinking Positive." Youth participated in workshops to discover ways to be more positive in such a negative, chaotic world. They also engaged in several activities to spread positivity and to be more positive to themselves. Some of these included making homemade cards for nursing home residents, making affirmation jars to fill with positive quotes, starting a gratitude journal, and making "love rocks" to spread out in public places to remind others they are loved. The activities helped youth learn to think positive thoughts about themselves and how showing positivity can lift others up.



State Contests were held on Saturday afternoon at the conference. Asheton Medlin of Bushy Fork Grange won first place in the Public Speaking Contest. Baylor Howerton, Asheton Medlin and Autumn Whitaker won first place in the Group Sign-a-Song Contest. These winners will compete in these contests at the Regional Conference in June for a chance to compete at the National Grange Convention this year. Fourteen youth competed in our annual

impromptu speech contest, which always brings great entertainment. Winning first place was Asheton Medlin of Bushy Fork Grange. Placing second was Jacob Roquet of Cape Fear Grange; and third place went to Matthew Settle from Little Mountain Grange. All speakers did an incredible job, and we love how this contest builds confidence in our youth. Joining us for the weekend were two State FFA Officers who participated in activities with our youth. They were an excellent representation of FFA and even helped judge the public speaking contest, for which we were very grateful.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Baylor

the applicants to select the leaders for the year, a tough decision with so many amazing candidates. All applicants did an impressive job interviewing, and we were so proud of the leadership skills and confidence that they possess. In a special ceremony on Saturday evening, the new Youth Leadership Team was announced.

The 2022 State Youth Ambassadors are Matthew Settle, Little Mountain Grange, and Baylor Howerton, Bushy Fork Grange. The youth selected to serve on this year's State Youth Leadership Team are Olivia Barber, Karly Denning, Asheton Medlin, Jacob Roquet, Lillie Roquet and Carter Settle. These leaders accepted their positions with much excitement, some with tears of joy, ready to serve the Grange through this wonderful opportunity.

Along with the introduction of this new team, Saturday evening's festivities included a special Graffiti Party where youth signed each other's tee-shirts with positive, friendly messages. The party also brought dancing to a glow-in-the-dark atmosphere and several fun games. One of our beloved chaperones, Montana Riley, wrapped up the night with a special message on living a life of positivity by sharing her own story. She expressed how positive thinking and surrounding herself with positive people helped get her through the loss of her mother to cancer during high school. It was an amazing night to close an awesome weekend together.

Youth departed Sunday morning after our traditional friendship circle. They shared hugs of goodbye, expressing







excitement for the next time they will see each other. It was a wonderful, inspiring weekend. Much appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible, who also enjoy encouraging and inspiring our youth. Our organization is proud to have such a unique program for a wonderful group of young people.



**President:**

Baylor Howerton,  
Bushy Fork Grange

**Vice President:**

Asheton Medlin,  
Bushy Fork Grange

**Program Director:**

Matthew Settle,  
Little Mountain Grange

**Steward:**

Olivia Barber,  
Bushy Fork Grange

**Assistant Steward:**

Jacob Roquet,  
Cape Fear Grange

**Lady Assistant Steward:**

Abby Gentry,  
Bushy Fork Grange

**Chaplain:**

Karly Denning,  
Grantham Grange

**Treasurer:**

Taylor Rogers,  
Camp Grange

**Secretary:**

Lillee Roquet,  
Cape Fear Grange

**Gatekeeper:**

Carter Settle,  
Little Mountain Grange

**Ceres:**

Caroline Barber,  
Bushy Fork Grange

**Pomona:**

Samantha Hunnings,  
Camp Grange

**Flora:**

Kayla Laws,  
Bushy Fork Grange

**Executive Committee:**

Clayton Cameron,  
Southern Wake Grange

Brady Hall,  
Little Mountain Grange

Eli Lambert,  
St. John's Grange

Nathan Ramirez,  
Camp Grange

Lillie Spratling,  
St. Johns Grange

## NC Grange Provides Comments

by: Jimmy Gentry

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is considering the approval of permits to allow Farm Digester Waste Management Systems for swine, cattle, and poultry operations. These systems provide a means to collect methane from lagoons that can be used for energy. A comment period has been available for stakeholders to offer views on the digester systems. The following comments were provided by the NC Grange and submitted to DEQ by Jimmy Gentry.

"The North Carolina State Grange fully supports the draft proposed rules for Farm Digester Waste Management Systems in swine, cattle, and poultry operations. Animal producers have been criticized for years regarding the waste management systems that have been available to them. They have acted in a responsible manner and have cooperated with the regulatory authorities. Now, new technology is under development to handle the waste in a more effective manner which will be beneficial to the environment. The utilization of Digester Systems is a step in the right direction for animal waste management in North Carolina.

I encourage NCDEQ to place final approval on these Digester Permits. Within the proposed regulations that are written into the proposed rules, DEQ has adequately addressed the needed provisions to make the Digesters safe to operate. By involving Professional Engineers as well as DEQ staff, the chances of successful operations are enhanced. Utilizing Digester systems will be good for animal agriculture while at the same time maintaining air and water quality."



baylor  
howerton

Grange: Bushy Fork  
School: East Carolina University  
Biology  
Interests: Drawing, cooking and sign  
language

*"Grange is important to me because  
the people are a family that I've grown  
up with. I know I wouldn't be the same  
person I am today without it."*



Grange: Little Mountain  
School: UNC- Charlotte  
Computer Science  
Interests: Biking, hiking and  
learning french

*"Grange has helped me gain  
confidence in leadership and  
has helped me to find ways to  
further serve my community  
and help others."*

matthew  
settle

# 2022 YOUTH leadership team

olivia  
barber

Grange: Bushy Fork  
School: East Carolina University  
Marketing  
Interests: Art, travel, cooking,  
photography

*"Grange gives me the opportunity to  
better my leadership skills while also  
making best friends."*



Grange: Cape Fear  
School: Plans to attend real  
estate school  
Interests: Grange, agriculture  
basketball

*"Grange is important to me  
because it's where I grew up.  
I was 8 when I first attended  
Grange Camp, and it's shaped  
me into the person I am today!"*

jacob  
roquet





## carter settle

Grange: Little Mountain  
School: East Wilkes High  
School, Senior  
Interests: Camping, hiking, and  
watching movies

*"Grange gives me a chance to get  
out of my comfort zone and meet  
and talk to new people."*



Grange: Cape Fear  
School: Coastal Carolina  
Univeristy  
Nursing  
Interests: Puzzles, reading and  
playing with my dog

*"Grange has built me into who  
I am today. I wouldn't be where  
I am without the friendships  
and lessons learned through  
Grange."*

## lillee roquet

## asheton medlin

Grange: Bushy Fork  
School: UNC- Chapel Hill  
Biology  
Interests: Volleyball, reading,  
painting and watching  
Netflix

*"Grange has helped me grow  
so much. I have learned to be  
confident in myself and have  
developed leadership qualities I  
never would have had. It has also  
introduced me to some of my best  
friends and has made me realize  
the impact I can have on others."*



Grange: Grantham  
School: Rosewood High  
School, Senior  
Interests: Volleyball, basketball  
and firefighting

*"In Grange, I always feel  
free to be myself. It has also  
introduced me to many  
opportunities, has helped  
prepared me for my future  
career, and has helped me build  
relationships."*

## karly denning

## NEW INSURANCE

## GOTCHA COVERED by : Mark Davis

The NC Grange is exploring the possibility of expanding its insurance program for all local Grange chapters. Currently, NC Grange has a general liability policy to cover activities that occur away from the state office such as our summer camp, state convention, and family conference. The question was recently raised as to how many of our local chapters have liability coverage for their meetings and events at locations that the local chapter does not own. For the local chapters that own their own building, general liability for that location is typically included within their property insurance policy. However, many of our local chapters do not own their building and meet at a church, fire station, community building, or restaurant. If someone should fall and get hurt at one of these non-owned locations, who assumes the liability for this injury? We also have the same question for any event or fundraiser a local chapter holds.

In an effort to mitigate the NC Grange as well as our local chapters, we are currently exploring the possibility of obtaining a blanket general liability policy for the state

organization that will also cover the local chapters meetings, events, and fundraisers that are away from non-owned Grange properties.

The other area of insurance concern for local chapters revolves around Office & Director Errors and Omission policies. This type of policy would cover our leaders in the event someone is accused of mishandling the business or financial affairs of the Grange. Many organizations, such as ours, obtain this coverage on behalf of their officers. This coverage is also being explored on the state level blanket plan on behalf of our local chapters.

We are currently in the quoting stages for both of these coverages. However, we will need some additional information from local Granges. If your chapter has not yet responded to our survey, please encourage your leadership to complete it as quickly as possible so we can complete the task of determining the feasibility of obtaining this coverage on a statewide level.



## FERGUSON GRANGE by : Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange had a wonderful program in March on the “do’s and don’ts” of gardening. Extension’s Master Gardeners Fay Kennedy (pictured left) and Pam McCarrick (pictured right) presented the inspiring program. Ferguson’s Program Director, Deborah Howell, presented them with a “Golden Gardening Glove Award.” It was a great meeting to kick off the spring season.



Above: Golden garden glove award to Extension Master Gardeners, Fay Kennedy (left) and Pam McCarrick (right). Deborah Howell presented

## VILLEWORTH GRANGE

by : Jessica Horton



In preparation for the 2022 garden season, VilleWorth Grangers teamed up with a local Girlscout troop for assistance. The troop was in need of a “journey project,” something that would have a lasting impact. Several parents of the girls are also Grange members and thought it would be a great partnership. Jessica Horton attended their March meeting, walking the girls through the different seeds, how to label them and how long each would take to grow. The girls helped to plant okra, onions, four different tomato varieties, bell peppers and marigolds! As a thank-you, all the girls received a goodie bag with Grange swag items.

In April, VilleWorth partnered with First Baptist Church of Huntersville to offer a potting station. Each child attending the Spring Celebration planted a begonia to take home.



Above: Girlscouts plant dozens of seedlings with Jessica Horton, Right: Spring Celebration at First Baptist Church of Huntersville

## COMMUNITY SERVICE by : Sharon Underwood

## 2022 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Our 2022 State Grange Community Service Project will involve collecting educational tools for teachers and schools. Following is our project plan for your Granges to get involved as we reach out and help others this year!

- **Local School Supplies Drive**  
Select a local, low income or low performing school, or a Title I School, in your community and collect school supplies or money to donate to those schools. If you need advice in identifying schools in need, contact your County’s Public School Office, or the school’s counselor or social worker and tell them what you want to do and ask for their suggestions of schools and their needs.
- **Supplies Drive for Tools4Schools:**  
Tools4Schools is a wonderful new program to help support teachers in Wake County. We are asking you and your Granges to bring school supplies or a monetary donation to our State Convention, September 15-18 in Durham to support this program. WakeEd Partnership’s

Tools4Schools store provides FREE classroom supplies for nearly 11,000 teachers in North Carolina’s largest school district to ensure that all students in the Wake County Public School System have the supplies they need to focus on learning. NC teachers spend an average of \$526 out-of-pocket on school supplies for their students each year. Collecting supplies will be a great support to teachers. To learn more about Tools4Schools please visit: [wakeed.org/tools4schools](http://wakeed.org/tools4schools)

If you have questions or need help with ideas to collect school supplies for this year’s project, please contact Sharon Underwood, State Community Service Director, [shaunderwood1@gmail.com](mailto:shaunderwood1@gmail.com).

Congratulations to Brogden and Grantham Granges on their 85th anniversary and Ferguson Grange on their 90th anniversary!





## THE TRUE LIGHT

Spring has finally arrived. After this rollercoaster winter weather, I have so looked forward to this season. Again, as I sit here writing, I look out my window and see the beautiful yellow daffodils along the post fence springing up, volunteering their blooms each year as if they are shouting, "I'm back!"

In my front yard I see my three tulip trees in their glorious purple, pink and white blossoms spreading their faces like they're smiling at me so pretty. This particular morning it is briskly raining and cloudy, but I can almost see the grass leaves lifting their heads drinking in the drops of restorative hydration to make them green again. And let's not forget the lovely white flowers on my huge pear tree in front of the pasture gate dropping snowy petals to the ground with the breeze. God's creation that is all around us is a ponderous reminder of His love and restoration of His grace. With Spring comes the celebration of Easter, the Christian holiday of Christ's death and resurrection, His saving grace for our sinful lives. But this celebration is not just once a year, it's everyday restoration. He is alive!!! Hallelujah!!!

Just as this earth is returning to life from the winter's dormancy and sometimes depressive moments, so still Christ is giving us life through His restoration of our souls. Romans 3:22-24 says, "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to ALL who believe. There is no difference, for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Notice "fall short" is present tense. He is still the One and only Savior of the World.

On a personal note, sometimes over the past years, and even more so recently, I have felt down in my spirit and the tears flow freely to the point I feel depressed. I know as a Christian I shouldn't feel depressed, but it's real, and I am still human and have emotions and feelings. When I read the Bible, I find that even Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Jesus wept over the death of his friend and brother Lazarus. But then He restored Lazarus to life, and all rejoiced over this miracle (John 11:33, 35). I also read how Jesus, was in anguish in the garden Mount of Olives where "His sweat was like drops as blood falling to the ground" as He "earnestly prayed" to God the Father. Even the disciples were asleep during this time, "exhausted from sorrow," (Luke 22). He, who is also our "Abba Father," sees our tears and knows our

name. Yet he suffered this pain and agony on the cross for you and for me. There is no greater love than this.

God can restore that joy again and restore your faith today, too. No matter what you've done or what you've been through, or are going through, He can completely restore you back to a place of peace, honor, and blessing. There are times when we all feel like a failure, and you come to Jesus saying, "I've blown it again." You're not alone. There are many examples in the Bible of people who have failed, like Abraham, Samson, David, Solomon, Jonah, Peter, and Paul. The list goes on and on. But the great I Am is the One who gives complete restoration in mind, body and soul. That grace of underserved favor. He promises to take care of us and give us faith to believe to "hold on my child, joy comes in the morning." Just go to Him with a repentant heart, believe, and listen to His voice for strength. He will not only restore us in our time of need but will help us bloom again for His purpose. He will put a Spring in our steps again. Look all around you at His creative beauty. "He restoreth my soul!"



### *In Memoriam*

*Albert Everson  
Jerry Blount  
Frances Marshall\*  
Linda Albright  
Tom Lewis  
Gary Ritchie  
Frances Suther*

*Beaufort County  
Britton's Neck  
Guilford  
Corriher  
Cape Fear  
St. John's  
St. John's*



In North Carolina, the General Assembly finally adjourned on March 11 after an almost fifteen month legislative long session that began on January 13, 2021. This was the longest session in North Carolina history. 1,720 bills were introduced this session and 199 became law. Members will reconvene May 18, following the May 17 primary, for the 2022 Short Session when they could possibly take up veto override bills, appointment and nomination bills, redistricting and redistricting litigation, election laws, bills for concurrence, adoption of conference reports, impeachment bills, resolutions, and joint resolutions on adjournment resolutions. Because short session will start later than usual, it is expected to be a shorter session than normal, likely ending by July 4. Legislators that are running in the 2022 General Election will hit the campaign trail quickly and return to their districts to campaign and prepare for the 2022 General Election will be held November 8.

Below are the thirteen bills passed by the General Assembly but vetoed by Governor Cooper.

- SB 37: In-Person Learning Choice for Families
- SB 43: Protect Religious Meeting Places
- HB 453: Human Life Nondiscrimination Act/No Eugenics
- SB 116: Putting North Carolina Back to Work Act
- HB 729: Charter Schools Omnibus
- HB 352: Hotel Safety Issues.
- HB 398: Pistol Purchase Permit Repeal
- SB 636: Donor Privacy
- HB 324: Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination/Schools
- HB 805: Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder
- SB 360: Prohibit Collusive Settlements by the Attorney General
- HB 264: Emergency Powers Accountability Act
- SB 326: Election Day Integrity Act

Highlights from the 2021-22 tax budget are as follows:

## TAX PACKAGE

- Cuts personal income tax from 5.25% to 3.99% over six years
- Increases zero-tax bracket \$12,740 to \$25,500 for married couples, up from \$10,750 and \$21,500
- Phases out the corporate income tax reducing it from the 2.5% to 2.25% in 2025, from 2.25% to 2% in 2026, from 2% to 1% in 2028, and to 0% in 2029.
- Allows tax deductions for businesses that received Paycheck Protection Program loans
- Eliminates the tax on Military Pensions

## STATE EMPLOYEE & TEACHER RAISES

- 5% average raise over two years for public school teachers and state employees
- 5% state and teacher retiree cost-of-living bonuses over two years
- \$1,000 bonuses for all state employees, including teachers

- Additional \$500 for all state employees, including teachers and correctional workers, making less than \$75,000
- Additional \$1,000 bonuses for teachers
- Additional teacher supplemental assistance allotments for teachers in 95 counties
- Provides \$15-per-hour minimum wage for all local employees of public schools and community colleges beginning in the 2022-23 school year.

## The appropriations below were lobbied for by the NC Grange:

- NC A&T - \$ \$7.5 M for University Doctoral Program
- NC A&T - \$3 M for Agriculture Research & Cooperative Extension
- 4H Centers - \$1.7 M
- NC State Troopers Caisson Unit - \$ 275,000
- Healing Transitions - \$5 M in 2021-22 for capital project
- NC MedAssist - \$600,000 NR in both years of the biennium
- Rural Health Loan Assistance Repayment Program - \$4 M NR in FY 2021-22

## POLICY ISSUES

- Takes away the ability of state agencies and the Attorney General to settle lawsuits in certain cases and gives that power to the General Assembly. (This stems from settlement in a lawsuit before the 2020 election and is similar to a bill passed earlier in the session that was vetoed by the Governor.)
- Puts new limits on the Governor's ability to extend a Statewide Emergency past 30 days. It requires vote by Council of State to extend the State of Emergency beyond 30 days and requires action by the legislature to extend beyond 60 days.

## Looking Forward

There will be many changes next year when the 2023 Long Session convenes next January. Eighteen members of the State House and eight members of the State Senate have either filed their candidacy for another office or have announced their retirement. As a result of new redistricting maps, some members have been double bunked meaning two members of the like parties will be running against each other in the primary.

In the NC House, the following members are running for different seats than what they currently hold:

- Rep. Gale Adcock (D-Wake) is running for a state Senate seat
- Rep. John Ager (D-Buncombe)
- Rep. Charles Graham (D-Robeson) running for US Congress
- Rep. Bobby Hanig (R-Currituck) running for Senate
- Rep. Rachel Hunt (D-Mecklenburg) running for Senate
- Rep. Verla Insko (D-Orange)
- Rep. Pat McElraft (R-Carteret)
- Rep. Allen McNeill (R-Randolph)





- Rep. Graig Meyer (D-Orange) running for Senate
- Rep. Tim Moffitt (R-Henderson) running for Senate
- Rep. Larry Pittman (R-Cabarrus)
- Rep. Billy Richardson (D-Cumberland)
- Rep. Kandie Smith (D-Pitt) running for a state Senate seat
- Rep. Raymond Smith (D-Wayne) running for Senate
- Rep. John Szoka (R-Cumberland)
- Rep. Evelyn Terry (D-Forsyth)
- Rep. Brian Turner (D-Buncombe)
- Rep. Lee Zachary (R-Yadkin) running for Senate

In the Senate, these members include:

- Sen. Don Davis (D-Pitt) running for US Congress
- Sen. Wiley Nickel (D-Wake) running for US Congress
- Sen. Sarah Crawford (D-Wake) running for US House
- Sen. Ben Clark (D-Hoke) running for US Congress
- Sen. Jeff Jackson (D-Mecklenburg) running for US Congress
- Sen. Kathy Harrington (R-Gaston)
- Sen. Chuck Edwards (R-Henderson) running for US Congress
- Marilyn Avila (R) will run in District 40
- Elmer Floyd (D) will run in District 43
- Stephen Ross (R) will run in District 63
- Christy Clark (D) will run in District 98
- Bill Brawley (R) will run in District 103
- Tricia Cotham (D) and Rodney Moore (D) will run against each other in the primary for District 112

In the Senate, four former members of the legislature are seeking election, including:

- Buck Newton (R) will run in District 4
- Wesley Meredith (R) will run in District 19
- Eddie Gallimore (R) will run in District 30
- Shirley Randleman (R) will run in District 36



### United States Postal Service Reform Act

The long-awaited USPS Reform Act, which is projected to save the Postal Service a total of \$107 billion, is to be signed by President Joe Biden. The bill was first introduced in the House and was passed 342 to 92 on February 8, 2021, before being sent to the Senate where it passed on March 8, 2021, 79 to 19. This long negotiated bill will eliminate a 2006 mandate handed down from Congress to pre-fund retiree health benefits. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy supports the bill, as do postal unions and associations, who say it will address USPS's longterm financial challenges.

DeJoy said in a statement that the bill, combined with operational reforms in the agency's 10-year reform plan, will allow USPS to continue to self-fund its operations "for many decades to come."

A lot has happened in the world since the last issue of *Grange News* came out. Not only is Ukraine affected by Russia's invasion-we all are. I know we all watch in horror at Putin's monstrous attempts to take over this country that has fought so hard for their independence and freedom. This is not what the world needed after still recovering from a worldwide pandemic in which everyone of us somehow was affected. The possibility of the United States and NATO having to get involved haunts us all. The continued loss of innocent human lives is intolerable and tragic beyond belief.



### TO OUR NEWEST GRANGE MEMBERS!

Mary Kathryn Kinley - Grantham

Ed Luttrell - Grantham

Judith Chapman - Grantham

Travis Grantham - Grantham

Deidra Grantham - Grantham

Melody Kearns - Guilford

Mike Vulcannon - Guilford

Jacob Ritchie - Corriher

Vickie Law - Ferguson

Emmett Brown - Ferguson (Jr)

Liana Brown - Ferguson (Jr)



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