

The official publication of the NC Grange

March / April 2020

GRANGE NEWS

- › THE PINE BINE
- › WINTER YOUTH
CONFERENCE
- › COVID-19

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April	Grange Month!
July 5-11	Grange Camp Columbia, NC
September 10-13	State Convention Charlotte, NC
November 17-21	National Convention King of Prussia, PA

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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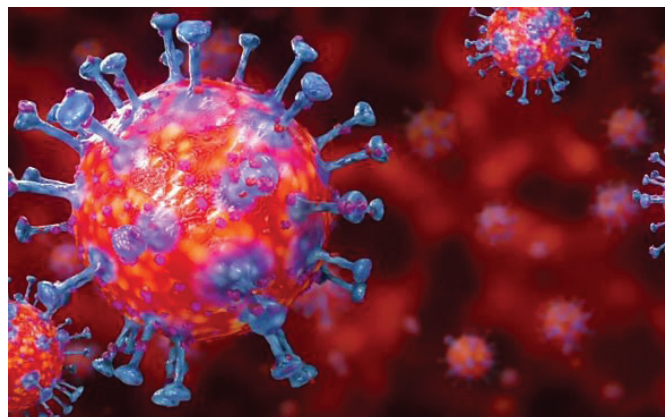




A NOTE FROM JIMMY: COVID-19 & NC GRANGE

I am writing this as a pandemic is going on across the world. It is a new virus so there is a lot to learn about it. We are uncertain about the impact. Not only is catching the virus a fear, but our country shutting down is a fear also. All of our Granges have been asked to suspend events through April, and this may need to be extended if conditions do not improve. As a precaution, the State Grange office is closed, and our staff is working from home. All of this is new to us. We are taking precautions that have never been taken before. We have not ceased all operations, but they have definitely been altered! With the cancellation of Family Conference, the talent show will be moved to State Convention. We had planned to kick off the Baby Bundle program at Family Conference. Our Community Service Director will be determining how to proceed with this great statewide project. The scholarship deadline for new applicants is being extended to June 30, 2020. Will we have camp this summer? I sure hope the crisis is over by then. We are proceeding with the registration process for camp as normal, which can be found online at ncgrange.com.

We look forward to the day when the virus is no longer a threat, and our lives return back to normal. This bump in the road should in no way stop us from having strong Grange programs and continuing to be an influence in communities across the state.





HERE'S TO THE LAND OF THE LONGLEAF PINE

story by: Laurie Barnhart photos provided by Ben Cauthen

We have all heard this beautiful toast for the great state of North Carolina. I grew up with longleaf pines in eastern North Carolina, and of course as a child I did not fully appreciate their beauty and all they stood for. My father, who could not carry a tune in a bucket, even made up a song he affectionately called "Pine Trees." The only words were, "Pine trees, pine trees, pine trees, 2nd verse... pine trees, pine trees, pine trees, 3rd verse..." and so on. However, after interviewing Ben Cauthen, collegiate scholarship recipient from the NC State Grange, who along with four NCSU classmates invented the "Pine Bine," I now have a whole new appreciation of this beautiful tree.

Ben, along with classmates Matthew Parker, Alex Greeson, Ben Cranfill, and Will Marsh from the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at NCSU, decided to construct a pine straw combine, which they dubbed the "Pine Bine," that would mechanically remove sticks and pine cones from the fallen straw. This idea was formed primarily to cut back on the enormous amount of labor involved in harvesting pine straw. This southeastern \$250 million industry is dependent almost solely on hand

labor. In addition, the existing labor regulations in the pine straw industry only allows for H2B workers which have more stringent time restraints than H2A workers that are typically used in other agriculture industries. Finding people to pick out sticks and pinecones in the woods is tough and extremely labor intensive work. Because of the value this industry brings to North Carolina, Ben and his colleagues were able to convince Strickland Brothers Enterprises, a North Carolina based equipment manufacturer in Spring Hope, to take on their project. By the time these young men graduated

in 2018, what began as a senior project developed into a patent-pending piece of equipment that had the capability to reduce industry labor requirements, therefore giving the industry a boost in profitability and efficiency.

In 2018, Innovative Agricultural Technologies, LLC, formed by these

industrious young men, won first place in the AGCO student design competition at the American Society of Biological & Agricultural Engineers (ASABE) Annual International Meeting in Detroit. This accomplishment recognized the Pine Bine as the best agriculture related senior design project

*"Here's to the land of the longleaf pine,
The summer land where the sun doth shine,
Where the weak grow strong and the
strong grow great,
Here's to "Down Home,"
the Old North State!"*



in the US for that year. Most recently, in January of this year, these 5 young gentlemen competed and placed in the top 10 in the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. This is a national business competition for US food and agriculture startups. The 10 finalists then journeyed to Austin, Texas to participate in the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge which is a “*Shark Tank*” style entrepreneurship competition for ag-related startups. Innovative Agricultural Technologies placed in the top four and were also awarded the “People’s Choice” award. Both of these competitions awarded these bright, industrious young men substantial cash awards which has helped them tremendously in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

We are all aware of the importance of pine straw in most landscaping plans. This completely natural mulch protects the soil surrounding plants and their root systems, protecting them from the hot sun while holding in moisture. Pine straw lasts longer than other hardwood mulch options and is more cost-effective. It showcases shrubs and blooming plants beautifully. In addition, longleaf pine trees create an ecosystem like no other on the Earth. Ecosystems are critical to the earth by providing habitats to wild animals and plants as well as supporting different food chains and food webs. Ecosystems regulate essential ecological processes and play a role in the recycling of nutrients between biotic and abiotic components. (sciencing.com)

Unfortunately, because loblolly pines grow at twice the

rate of the longleaf pine, they have taken over the lumber market in the southeast. By reducing industry labor demands and creating machinery to make pine straw harvest more economical, the young men at Innovative Agricultural Technologies hope to play a big role in bringing the longleaf pine back in abundance to North Carolina, and continue the heritage of this very worthy tree.



Ben grew up in Mt. Pleasant, NC. In addition to working to refine the Pine Bine prototype design, Ben works full time with Cavanaugh & Associates, focusing on bioenergy and renewable natural gas projects. I am happy to say he grew up in St. John’s Grange beside his parents and grandparents. Although he is not currently active in a Grange, we are hoping to get him to a meeting at Capitol Grange soon. Ben, we are so proud of what you and Innovative Agricultural Technologies have done and continue to do for the land of the longleaf pine, the Old North State!

For more information about Innovative Agricultural Technologies, LLC or to ask about purchasing a Pine Bine, contact Matthew Parker at (910) 639-8115 or



CAPITOL NEWS

by: Laurie Barnhart

There is no doubt that by the time you receive this issue of Grange News, things will have changed with the Covid-19 pandemic virus. I am praying that we will be receiving reassuring news. From my vantage point, everyone seems to be pulling together to do the right thing for those who may be more heavily impacted. As always, our health has to take priority over school, work, finances, travel, etc. I am thankful that technology allows many of us the ability to work remotely so we can carry on with our responsibilities as much as possible. It seems the most critical thing at this time is “social distancing” and “staying in place”.

At this time, the NC General Assembly is still slated to return for short session on April 28. Naturally, that is subject to change depending on what happens between now and then with the pandemic. On March 14 Governor Cooper declared all public schools across North Carolina closed at least until May 15. This follows after universities and colleges throughout the country have stopped formal classes and have gone to all online studies. On March 17, the Governor mandated all restaurants and bars closed, and on March 22, he mandated all salons, gyms and movie theaters closed.

On March 19, NC House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) announced the bipartisan NC House Select Committee on COVID-19. The working groups formed will participate remotely to prepare immediate and long-term legislative responses as this crisis continues to develop. According to Tim Moore, these working groups will address “documented and anticipated economic impacts associated with the spread of COVID-19 virus on North Carolina’s economy, including workforce dislocation, health system resource management, declined consumer activity and temporary industry contraction.”

NC House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) was quoted in his newsletter saying, “The General Assembly has prepared for times of crisis with smart savings and disaster readiness policy that enable the administration to respond effectively. But for actions the administration cannot take on its own, the House Select Committee on COVID-19 and its crisis policy working groups will

identify immediate and long-term reforms to assist North Carolinians through this emergency.”

Speaker Moore contends that North Carolina has a strong fiscal position to deal with this virus. “We have a \$3.9 billion Unemployment Trust Fund, \$1.1 billion in savings, \$74 million in disaster relief funds, \$184 million in Medicaid contingency reserves and \$2.2 billion in unappropriated cash-on-hand.” (*Speaker Tim Moore, NC House of Representatives*)

From the Hill

Late Wednesday night, March 25, after many hours of dispute over an unemployment benefit, the largest economic “rescue” package in the history of our country passed unanimously in the US Senate. The \$2 trillion package now goes to the House where there will be a voice vote tomorrow, Friday, March 26.

- Companies like General Motors have announced that they will now begin producing needed respiratory care products, and Hanesbrands has announced that it will begin modifying its facilities to produce medical masks. These are just a few examples of the countless ways American private sector ingenuity and industrial capacity are being utilized to confront the outbreak.
- The FDA has also approved the use of a new, much faster diagnostic test for COVID-19. This test can deliver results in a matter of hours, instead of days — making tests much more accessible to Americans. It will help to more quickly identify patients that need to be quarantined so that they are not unnecessarily exposing the virus to others and can be treated appropriately.

FCC uses variety of approaches to provide assistance in response to COVID-19

Gathered by National Grange Legislative Director, Burton Eller

The internet and telephone provider community took actions to increase speeds, lift data caps, and offer 60 days or more free service to students and low income households. The response of 24 companies to FCC Chairman Pai’s call to pull out all the stops will help Americans stay connected during this pandemic. Pai also



urged the remaining telecom companies to get on board.

Radio and Television Broadcasters Can Help

Chairman Pai commended radio and television broadcasters for their coronavirus response so far. Pai then challenged the broadcasters to work with cable and satellite operators to avoid blackouts and service disruptions over the next 60 days.

Other Emergency Measures

In additional actions by the FCC, several cellular companies were granted temporary access to additional spectrum to help meet the increased pandemic demand. Recertification requirements for the Lifeline program were waived for 60 days to assure continuance of service for the program many rural citizens depend upon.

CRANBERRY OATMEAL COOKIES

PAM MCCARRICK | FERGUSON GRANGE
FIRST PLACE OATMEAL COOKIE

2 STICKS OF BUTTER, SOFTENED
3/4 CUP BROWN SUGAR
3/4 CUP WHITE SUGAR
2 LARGE EGGS
1 TEASPOON CINNAMON
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
1/2 TEASPOON SALT
1 1/4 CUPS FLOUR
3 CUPS OATMEAL
1 CUP CHOPPED DRIED CRANBERRIES
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS

MIX USING TRADITIONAL METHODS

BAKE AT 375 DEGREES FOR 8 TO 12 MINUTES

APPLE PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

SHARON RITCHIE | ST JOHNS GRANGE
FIRST PLACE FRUIT COOKIE

1/2 CUP SHORTENING
1/2 CUP CHUNKY PEANUT BUTTER
1/2 CUP WHITE SUGAR
1/2 CUP PACKED BROWN SUGAR
1 EGG
1/2 TSP. VANILLA EXTRACT
1-1/2 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1/2 TSP. BAKING SODA
1/2 TSP. SALT
1/2 TSP. GROUND CINNAMON
1/2 CUP GRATED PEELED APPLE

IN A LARGE BOWL, CREAM THE
SHORTENING, PEANUT BUTTER AND
SUGARS UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY.

BEAT IN EGG AND VANILLA. COMBINE
THE DRY INGREDIENTS; GRADUALLY
ADDING THEM TO CREAMED MIXTURE
AND MIX WELL. STIR IN APPLE.

DROP BY ROUNDED TABLESPOONFULS
2 IN. APART ONTO GREASED BAKING
SHEETS. BAKE AT 375 DEGREES FOR
10-12 MINUTES OR UNTIL GOLDEN
BROWN.

LET COOL FOR 5 MINUTES BEFORE
REMOVING TO WIRE RACKS.

WHEN YOUTH DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE

by: Jennie Gentry

I believe I am one of the luckiest people on the planet because I have the privilege of working with the amazing youth in our Grange Youth Program. What blows me away are the deep relationships these young people build with each other. Those friendships are special and meaningful, so when our first Winter Youth Conference had to be canceled last minute due to bad weather, they were very disappointed.

It stings when obstacles like this arise, but those challenges bring out the positive attitudes of our youth. They sent texts and messages of support, understanding the circumstances. Some of those messages were incredibly motivating, expressing how they know everything is going to work out and asking how they can help. Again, I was blown away.

We really needed to have the conference, and I surely did not want to let our kids down; neither did the camp facility. We cancelled on a Friday, and by the following Tuesday, new dates were set, and information was sent out. Camp Caraway worked hard to accommodate us, and just like the youth predicted, everything worked out.

The conference was held February 28 through March 1 at Camp Munda Vista in the Asheboro area. Youth attended to visit with friends, make new ones, learn, and take part in business and contests. This year's theme was "Who Are You?" The morning workshop taught youth about the Enneagram personality profiling system. They learned about their individual personality type to discover more about who they are and why they

do some of the things they do. This was used to help them discover how to better work with others, to strengthen relationships, and to become better leaders. It was very enlightening for us all and amazing discussion and self-growth came out of the activities.

We were very excited that State FFA Officers Harrison McLamb and Milosh McAdoo were able to join us for the weekend. They led several games which were extremely popular with our group. They helped judge our public speaking contest, got to know our youth, and represented the FFA so well.

Saturday afternoon consisted of contests and officer elections intertwined with hilarious "minute to win it" games. Rylee Furr, Baylor Howerton, Katie Leonard and Amber Long won first place in the Group Sign-a-Song Contest with an entertaining performance to a "Cheetah Girls" Song. They will compete at the Regional

Conference in July. Sixteen youth competed in our annual impromptu speech contest, which always brings great entertainment. Winning first place was James Lesley of Southern Wake Grange. Second place went to Asheton Medlin (Bushy Fork Grange). Brady Marley (Little

Mountain Grange) placed third, and Ashley Drop (Arcadia Grange) placed fourth. All speakers did an incredible job, and we love how this contest builds confidence and speaking skills in our youth. Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Baylor Howerton of Bushy Fork Grange was elected the 2020 State





Grange Youth President, and Cole Settle of Little Mountain Grange was elected the State Youth Vice President. A full list of officers can be found in this edition of Grange News.

Throughout the weekend, Youth Team and Ambassador applicants took part in interviews with the State Youth Committee. The committee interviewed the applicants to select the leaders for the year. Selecting the team is no easy task due to the many amazing candidates we had. All applicants did an impressive job interviewing, and we were so proud of the leadership skills and professionalism that they possess. In a special ceremony on Saturday evening, the new Youth Leadership Team was announced. The 2020 State Youth Ambassadors are Lillie Roquet, Cape Fear Grange, and Cole Settle, Little Mountain Grange. The youth selected to serve on the 2020 State Youth Team are Olivia Barber, James Lesley, Asheton Medlin, Maria Rapp, Jacob Roquet and Matthew 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 the new team, Saturday evening's festivities included dancing and karaoke.

Youth departed Sunday morning after a meaningful message led by James Lesley that was followed by our traditional friendship circle. Youth shared hugs of goodbye, expressing excitement for the next time they will see each other. It was a wonderful, inspiring weekend, and much appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible. Our organization is proud of what a unique program

we have for such a wonderful group of young people. They embrace new activities to learn and grow; they strive to become better leaders; and they aim to serve others.

In March, our youth were disappointed when Family Conference was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Once again, they responded with love by sending messages of encouragement to their friends and mentors, which is much needed with everything our state and country are facing right now. In learning more about who they are at the winter conference, their personalities are shining. Some send out information to keep other youth informed. Some offer words of encouragement to make things less scary. Some are offering humor to keep others in good spirits. Some are making lists of things to do and ways to help. And some are working hard to help support their families. Our youth are resilient, positive, and ready to help. They continue to blow me away.



2020 YOUTH OFFICERS

President:

Baylor Howerton Bushy Fork Grange

Vice President:

Cole Settle Little Mountain Grange

Program Director:

Maria Rapp Arcadia Grange

Steward:

Jacob Roquet Cape Fear Grange

Assistant Steward:

James Lesley Southern Wake Grange

Lady Assistant Steward:

Asheton Medlin Bushy Fork Grange

Chaplain:

Liz Cartwright Guilford Grange

Treasurer:

Matthew Settle Little Mountain Grange

Secretary:

Olivia Barber Queen City Grange

Gatekeeper:

Carson Lackey Southern Wake Grange

Ceres:

Lillee Roquet Cape Fear Grange

Pomona:

Autumn Whitaker Southern Wake Grange

Flora:

Karly Denning Grantham Grange

Executive Committee:

Alex Gentry (Chair)	Little Mountain Grange
Joshua Drop	Arcadia Grange
Olivia Gentry	Bushy Fork Grange
Julius Locklear	Cape Fear Grange
Brady Marley	Little Mountain Grange

New Youth Team, Pictured Right:

Top (left to right):

Cole Settle (NC Ambassador)

Little Mountain Grange
Appalachian State University Sophomore

Olivia Barber

Queen City Grange
Northern Durham High School Senior

Jacob Roquet

Cape Fear Grange
Lumberton High School Junior

Middle (left to right)

Lillee Roquet (NC Ambassador)

Cape Fear Grange
Lumberton High School Senior

Maria Rapp

Arcadia Grange
Catawba College Sophomore

Bottom (left to right)

Matt Settle

Little Mountain Grange
East Wilkes High School Senior

Asheton Medlin

Bushy Fork Grange
Person High School Junior

James Lesley

Southern Wake Grange
Asheville-Buncombe Tech, Sophomore

The NC Grange Youth Team is selected by application and interview process at the Winter Youth Conference each year. All members are considered part of the team, but two are selected as the state Ambassadors. Those two people (Cole and Lillee) will represent North Carolina at the National Convention in the fall (Pennsylvania) as well as other events.

The team is elected in February, and meets throughout the spring and summer to plan events and themes at the NC Grange summer camp held in July at the Eastern 4-H Center. They are each responsible for a day during camp to lead 120+ campers and adults in flag raising/lowering, songs at meals, evening activities, skits and being their group leaders throughout the week.

This is a fabulous leadership and collaboration training opportunity. Skills learned through this experience will continue to be used in their lives as they enter into adulthood



2020 YOUTH TEAM



From Sharon

by: Sharon Underwood
Community Service Director

Greetings from the NC Grange Director of Community Service. I am excited about the 2020 State Grange Community Service project, "Baby Bundles." Three Charlotte area mothers who lost babies initiated this program with a threefold purpose; to deal with their own grief, to assist young families in need, and to honor the babies that they lost.

What is the project all about?

The "Baby Bundles" project is basically collecting, buying, or making items for babies of needy families in the Charlotte area. The types of things we can collect are books, clothing, toys, bibs, etc. for infants. Donations of new items for infants only and clean, gently used items for children up to 18 months of age are gratefully accepted. They families DO NOT need diapers or baby food since they can get those items from other sources. Monetary gifts are also deeply appreciated.

Paula Foust, Baby Bundles Executive Director, will attend our 2020 September State Conference in Charlotte. She will speak to us about this program and receive our contributions at that time.

Please read the information about the Baby Bundles project by visiting their website at info@babybundlesnc.org for more details. The project is a valuable, nonprofit program that we have chosen to support as a State Grange. Your participation in this project is needed and appreciated.

The State Office will be sending out a packet of information to each of the local Grange President. It will include a cover letter, two Baby Bundles fliers, directions on how to make a baby sized 'no sew' fleece blanket and a donation summary form to hand in with your donations at the September State meeting in Charlotte.

I am so sorry that we missed our Family State Conference at Nags Head and getting to make our "No Sew Fleece" blankets.

Thank you for your Grange's involvement and generosity for this year's NC Grange State Project and if you have any questions, please email me at community@ncgrange.com or call me at (828) 244-9781.

BABY BUNDLE'S MISSION

To provide baby essentials to families in financial need in the Charlotte area, helping them get a positive start with their baby.

BABY BUNDLE'S OBJECTIVES

To donate new and gently used clothing and other baby essentials to underprivileged families in the Charlotte area. Baby Bundles partners with 15 community agencies and the local hospitals to identify families in financial need who will receive a bundle of clothing, blankets, books and toys. These bundles meets both immediate needs but will last well over the first year of life, supporting basic clothing needs, promoting an infant's brain growth and development, and fostering caregiver and infant bonding, all of which helps give the newborn a positive start to life.



ORDER YOUR YARD SIGN OR LICENSE PLATE

Place orders at NCGrange.com and look for the button on the homepage. All signs and license plates will be shipped to you.



TO OUR NEWEST GRANGE MEMBERS!

Betty Williams - Britton's Neck, SC
Larry & Debbie Shepherd - Corriher
Doug Allen - Corriher
Gail Peacock - Corriher
Terry Freeze - Corriher
Hazel Freeze - Corriher
Jace Hainor - Corriher (Jr.)
Audrina Hainor-Alemand - Corriher (Jr.)
Lois Page - Patterson
Marcus Bennett - Westbrook
Jason & Courtney Guerin - Westbrook

Be sure we have correct addresses
on file for your members!

In Memoriam

Paul Campbell*
LaRue Alligood
Violet Hill

Corriher Grange
Beaufort County Grange
Westbrook Grange

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God,
lights up my darkness.*

Psalm 138:28
* 50 Year Member

DID YOU KNOW

By Al & Vinni Kirmss, Capitol Grange

This article is reprinted in part from the NEW GRANGER, the NY State Grange bimonthly paper. I read it and thought that it may be of interest to some of you. It describes their Grange's way of honoring members after they pass away. "DID YOU KNOW," by Carol Bailey, NY State Grange Historian

DID YOU KNOW...

That the Grange honors members after they pass away? Most of us know that Granges honor their members for years of service and various other reasons. However, we also memorialize them after their passing. Many know that Granges hold a memorial service for our departed brothers and sisters. Unless you leaf through a Grange manual or are well versed in the Grange, you may not know there is a burial service for the home or funeral home.

While paging through an 1878 manual, I came across the burial and thought it would be interesting to compare it to the current ceremony. The beginning instructions vary greatly as times have changed. In the early version, members are required to wear a badge of mourning. The male mourners met at the Grange hall and marched to the deceased member's home. From there, they followed the hearse, which was to be decorated with evergreens, to the cemetery.

A badge of mourning was described as "one piece of black and one of white ribbon, one inch wide, tied above the elbow on the left arm." Pall bearers were to wear a white sash and each member was to carry flowers, dried or fresh. It is interesting to note that the badge of mourning is described exactly in 1984 as it was in 1878, to be worn by all Grange members at the service.

In the 1878 version, when reaching the cemetery, the brothers form a double line that the pall bearers with the casket pass between to the grave. They are followed in carriages by the relatives and sisters of the Grange. The brothers follow behind. Today, we are to form two equal lines for the casket and family to walk through.

The Grange President begins the service with an opening paragraph of which the wording has been changed somewhat. Both continue with the "Lord's Prayer" followed by the first verse of an appropriate hymn. The Chaplain continues, and the wording has been updated, but the essence of comfort remains. The last paragraph has sustained itself since at least 1878.

In 1878, while the second verse of the hymn was to be sung, only the male members dropped their flowers into the grave. Today, everyone drops a flower into the grave. The Chaplain continues in the same manner and ends with

the 23rd Psalm. In the current ceremony, the Chaplain only says the 23rd Psalm and then the President continues. In the old version, the sisters would then drop their flowers in the grave after the casket has been lowered.

The President's words in the service mention the importance of a good name, referring to a person's good character. Closing the service is the Chaplain. The last sentence in the 1878 version is, "May the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with us all, now and forever." In 1984, the words are, "And now may the peace which passeth all understanding, the ministry of the Eternal Comforter, and the blessing of the Great Master Above, abide with us all, now and forever."

The old manual recommends setting a date to plant trees at the grave or elsewhere in memory of deceased members. Both manuals suggest having a Memorial Day each year in remembrance of members who have passed. We are also to adorn the burial sites and memorial services with flowers. Some things in the Grange do not change.

GENTRY VISITS WITH FFA

by Jonas Greene, Secretary of South Rowan FFA

NC Grange President Jimmy Gentry was contacted by an officer from the South Rowan FFA Chapter in China Grove, NC. He was asked to speak at the Greenhand Degree Ceremony on February 3, 2020. The FFA Greenhand Degree is the first degree eligible for students to receive in the Chapter level of the FFA Organization. He spoke about taking the first step in agriculture and how important agriculture is to our society. He informed us about the NC Grange and how FFA and the Grange work together. He also explained how the Grange can help students who are pursuing agriculture. At the end of his presentation, he presented us all with wonderful goodie bags - they were a big hit! I see students using the pens and sticky notes on a day to day basis. The South Rowan FFA Chapter would like to thank President Jimmy Gentry for taking his time to come and speak to our students.



GOTCHA COVERED

ARE WE PREPARED?

by: Mark Davis

Over the last few weeks, we all have experienced a major change in all our daily lives. Personal and business routines experienced disruptions. The Governor closed all our schools for at least two weeks with no estimation on when they will reopen – if at all this school year. Everyone is developing a contingency plan to operate on until we can return to normal.

With all the negative disruption that this virus has and continues to cause, we are resourceful and resilient even in this stressful time. Many times these “tough” times brings out the absolute best in all of us as we share our time and resources with our family, friends, and community. These times exemplify what it means to be a member of our local and North Carolina State Grange where we all pull together and help one another out! Simply said, we care about each other.

This virus can have a positive effect on all of us by demonstrating just how prepared we are for adverse, stressful, disruptive, and possibly prolonged situations that could occur in our lives. We should not subscribe to the “sky is falling” philosophy nor be like an ostrich with our head stuck in the sand, but be prudent and tempering in our preparation for potential adverse situations. In our planning, we need to have an overall plan that consist of several different steps; an immediate short range plan for less than a month’s period of time, an intermediate plan for a two to four month period, then a long-term plan.

Historically, disruptions to our normal lives have not come in the form of a worldwide virus threat, but from an individual health or accident issue. Typically, our short, and to a limited extent, our intermediate plan for this type of disruption relies heavily on our health insurance to pay most of the medical bills. Still, even with health insurance, most will face financial challenges with co-payments, deductibles, and possible loss of normal income – especially the self-employed. Disability insurance coverage can offset some of the intermediate financial challenges. Disability coverage is an essential requirement for all self-employed individuals to include in their insurance portfolio. For those with a group-sponsored disability plan, they should also consider a supplemental individual disability plan because the group plan typically only covers about one-

half of the salary and claim benefits paid under the group plan and typically have taxes withheld.

When considering our long-term plan, we generally look at the long-term effects of a health or accident issue being limited mobility, need of continual maintenance care, or care from a cognitive related issue. Our health insurance typically will not cover long-term maintenance cost of a rehab or nursing facility after a certain period without documented improvement and rehabilitation potential from the detriment. Self-pay, Medicaid, or Long-Term Care Insurance, or a combination thereof, typically pays for long-term care cost. Understandably, neither of the first two options are the preferred method of payment. Yet, many ignore this third valuable resource to fund long-term care expenses should the need arise. The uncertainty of the long-term care need, or the duration of that need, is one of the major reasons for most individuals not seeking that coverage. With the newer hybrid long-term care plans, which are coupled with a life insurance plan or an annuity plan, this objection is mitigated where someone will reap the benefits of the premiums paid on this policy.

Just as we are all assessing how to best deal with this virus disruption in our normal routines, now is a great time to review our health, disability, long-term care, and life portfolio for any potential weaknesses that may exist. Give us a call today and we will get you in touch with a local NC Grange Agent for a timely review of your insurance portfolio.

TROUTMAN GRANGE

By: Katie Greene

Troutman Grange celebrated Anita Gentry’s 50-year membership on February 27, 2020. We had the celebration at Julia’s Talley House in downtown Troutman. Members and friends from Corriher Grange attended the celebration. Troutman Grange Secretary, Gay Shaver, presented Anita with her certificate from National Grange. Anita has a love of herbs, so Grange members started a new inside herb garden for her. She was very excited and pleased with her gifts. Grangers completed the evening with a celebration cake.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

YOU ARE MORE THAN YOUR BODY

by: Jerry Snyder, NC Grange Chaplain

In Genesis, the first chapter, verses 26 and 27, it says, "Then God said, let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created Him; male and female he created them." Genesis 2: 7 says, "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

God made mankind with a body and breathed into Him the breath of life, His spirit. So we are body and spirit.

All these were actions by God; His spirit moved in creation. God has been in motion ever since. He moved in history with the people of Israel. He moves in our relationship with Him. He created a plan for man's salvation so we can worship Him in spirit and in truth. God created the Easter plan, the plan to send His Son to this earth. We all know John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Verses 17 and 18 are also very important. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only son."

After Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, he rose on the third day and appeared to His disciples and to over 400 others. He told His disciples He would send a comforter to them, the Holy Spirit, to be with them and live in them, to give them wisdom and power to preach the gospel.

This same spirit lives in us when we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord. We call this love, grace, unending love. This love or grace gives us freedom to live, freedom to love, and freedom to forgive others. It impels us to spread this grace to other people.

This grace is unearned, and there is nothing we can do to work for it or earn it. It is a gift of God to us. All we can do is accept it.

I am going to borrow a passage from a book by Mary C. Neal, M.D. called *Seven Lessons From Heaven*. "It is truly good news

that neither you nor I need to earn our way into God's family or into His loving embrace. When we make poor choices, or ignore God's leading, He does not cast us away and forget about us. He continues to love us and patiently awaits our return. Regardless of who we are, where we are, or how many mistakes we have made, God will run to us when we turn to Him. When our failings run deep, God's love runs deeper.

"He knows our story. He understands our heart and knows our hurts. In fact, He knew us before we were in our mother's womb. (Jeremiah 1:5). He looks beyond our outward appearance, seeing our beauty and promising to remove our sins and mistakes as far as the east is from the west (Psalms 103:10-14.)" Instead of focusing on our shortcomings, God focuses on our potential. As Oscar Wilde observed, "Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future."

In her book, Neal also states, "As we release our story to God, we can let go of our past failures, shame, guilt, anger, and disappointments. And through His forgiveness we have the ability to live a future that is not defined by our past. With God, every day is another blank page of our life's book, just waiting to be filled.

"Recognizing our own failings and accepting God's forgiveness of them makes it easier to show grace to those we don't think deserve forgiveness."

To quote Raphael Simon, "To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."

GRANGE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENDED

Each year, the Grange offers its members the chance to receive our college scholarship. In the amount of \$1,000, the scholarship is given to full-time students who have maintained Grange membership and involvement for at least a year. The scholarship is renewable each year, for up to 4 years of undergraduate school and 2 years of graduate school, if the student maintains a 2.8 GPA.

Given the Covid-19 pandemic, we have made the decision to extend the deadline for the new scholarship application to June 30. We understand that with schools being closed indefinitely, it has become difficult for some high school seniors to obtain their official transcripts. We want to give students a fair opportunity to complete the application with lower stress.

The application can be found on our website at ncgrange.com under the Changing Lives menu tab. Both the New Scholarship Application and the Renewal Scholarship Application are due June 30.



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