

The official publication of the NC Grange

November / December 2018

GRANGE NEWS

National Convention in Vermont

Abbreviated State Convention

NC YOUTH NAMED NATIONAL LEADERS



State Officers

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Program Director	Caroline Tart
Steward	Jimmy Martin
Assistant Steward	Wayne Stack
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Jerry Snyder
Treasurer	Julia Stack
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Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
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	Jimmy Barefoot
President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Secretary	Deborah Welch
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Membership Director	Katie Greene
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Joyce Clodfelter
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

Events 2018

November 22-23	Office Closed
December 7-8	Board Meeting
December 24-25	Office Closed
January 1	Office Closed

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Ferguson Project
Memoriam

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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.



We have just completed National Convention that was held in a cold, snowy, but beautiful area of Vermont. As you will see in this issue, our North Carolina youth had some great successes for which I am very proud. We are blessed with great kids who are developing into great young leaders. During the convention a great compliment was made by a delegate from another state when viewing the youth opening of the meeting on Friday morning of the convention. He told Anita that he could always tell which youth were from North Carolina

because they look so nice and are well put together. I very much appreciate this comment that Anita shared with me. Our youth present themselves well. They are well-behaved, polite, and mannerly. When I see this in our youth, then I am convinced that our efforts through the youth program are paying off. It is rare for both National Youth Ambassadors to come from the same state, but Zac Mazag from Troutman Grange, and Rylee Furr from St. John's Grange, pulled it off! Ashley Drop from Arcadia Grange delivered an inspiring speech and the Bella's sign-a-song team gave a great performance during the Evening of Excellence. Amber Long from Bushy Fork Grange won a national award for her involvement in community service. The NC Grange youth parliamentary procedure placed second in this competition.

In North Carolina this year we will be making membership development a high priority. Any attempt at growing our organization cannot overlook youth and young adults, which

requires a completely different approach than for older adults. If you want a strong youth and young adult program in your Grange, you have to provide a structure that is of interest to them. They are unlikely to sit through long, dull meetings that include nothing of relevance to them. Neither are they likely to participate in activities that have no meaning for them. Our state youth program is so strong because these needs are met. I encourage all of our Granges to examine how you can create programs that are more conducive to the needs of juniors, youth, and young adults. To do so, you begin by seeking advice from those age groups to determine their needs and then go to work! By the way, while doing this, do not forget the older adults and their interests!

OLD TIMEY APPLE PIE

CHARLOTTE HUDSON | WESTBROOK GRANGE
GRAND PRIZE

PIE CRUST

2 CUPS SELF-RISING FLOUR
1/2 CUP CRISCO
ICE WATER TO MAKE DOUGH

MIX ALL INGREDIENTS TOGETHER AND REFRIDGERATE FOR ONE HOUR.

SPRINKLE FLOUR ON CLOTH AND ROLL DOUGH OUT THIN TO MAKE PIE CRUST AND STRIPS TO DECORATE THE TOP

PIE FILLING

2 CUPS OF DICED APPLES
1 3/4 CUPS SUGAR
1 CUP WATER
1/4 CUP PATS OF MARGARINE

PLACE DICED APPLES IN A 10" PIE DISH, THEN SPRINKLE SUGAR OVER APPLES.

POUR THE WATER OVER THE APPLES AND SUGAR.

PLACE PATS OF MARGARINE OVER THE PIE, THEN PLACE THE CRUST STRIPS OVER THE FILLING.

BAKE AT 325 DEGREES FOR ONE HOUR.

Cape Fear Grange Helps Florence Victims

By: Ken Plummer

The area near Spring Lake, NC was especially hard hit during Hurricane Florence. A number of local homes, churches, and businesses were inundated with flood water. On November 10, 2018, the Cape Fear Grange conducted a service project to help at a flooded property. We worked on one half of a duplex property, with the goal of removing all water damaged material from the site. This included drywall, flooring, trim, kitchen fixtures, cabinets, etc. The smell of mold was heavy in the air inside the property, and black mold stained most of the drywall removed. The project was completed in cooperation with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which helped us to identify a site that needed assistance.

Al Miller, one of the team members who helped organize the tools and supplies needed for the project noted, "It felt really good to provide support to members of a nearby community that was so severely impacted by the flooding." The Cape Fear Grange looks forward to the opportunity to support our neighbors in future times of need.



Top Left: View of the living room prior to demolition. Note mold stains on walls, damaged floor, and ceiling fan blades warped by moisture.

Top Right: Phil Black climbs the ladder to remove drywall.

Bottom Left: Wayne Stack, Julia Stack and Richard Everett hard at work.

Bottom Right: The Cape Fear Grange team in front of the house and the demolition pile. From left: Phil Black, Julia Stack, Al Miller, Ken Plummer, Wayne Stack, and Richard Everett.



2018 STATE CONVENTION

As you read in our September/October 2018 edition of Grange News, the North Carolina Grange chose to postpone the annual Convention due to Hurricane Florence. Prior to landfall, members expressed their concern with travel during the time the storm was scheduled to hit, and rightfully so. This unexpected curveball sent the staff into a frenzy of re-planning, and re-booking convention in a matter of days. With short notice, the site of our 2019 Convention had availability to host the abbreviated meeting.

Members from across the state gathered at the Sheraton Emperial Hotel in the RTP area of Durham, North Carolina for a mini meeting. The Board of Directors met for lunch, and then most arrivals began on Friday afternoon, with convention officially opening at 4PM with President, Jimmy Gentry presiding. Once the business recessed, award winners and youth started arriving for the evening reception and awards ceremony.

The awards were presented to members and nonmembers to recognize them for their service to our communities and organization. Following the ceremony, the live auction kicked off, and eighteen items were bid upon with Jimmy Martin (Brogden Grange) playing auctioneer. The live auction raised \$935 while the silent auction brought \$556. All money collected goes to the Disaster Relief Fund, which has now been used to assist those affected by Hurricane Florence.

\$1491
RAISED



Saturday morning the youth officers and drill team opened session, while Joyce Clodfelter-Community Service Director, Caroline Tart-Program Director and their helpers finished checking in competition items and welcomed the judges.

Because of the abbreviated convention, the Youth Banquet was hosted at Saturday lunch instead of dinner. Youth and Juniors were honored for their community service and leadership abilities they have demonstrated over the previous year. The Youth and Junior of the Year were named during lunch. Junior of the Year went to Mary Ella Griffin of Troutman Grange, and Youth of the Year went to Lillie Griffin of Troutman Grange.

Also recognized during lunch, was Charles Forrester. Charles has served on the State Board of Directors for 21 years. This year he decided to step



down from his position on the Board. President Jimmy Gentry presented him with a plaque, thanking him for his service to our organization. Charles and his wife Kathy are very active members of Ranger Grange located in Murphy, North Carolina.

Following the luncheon, the committees finished their business of resolutions, and officer elections and installations were conducted. There were three positions to fill: Charles Forrester's Board seat, Robert Cayton's term was up and Julia Stack's seat for Treasurer was also up for election. Robert and Julia were re-elected for their current positions. Jimmy Dean Barefoot of Westbrook Grange was elected to fill the Board of Director's seat.

Before heading home, Grangers got to enjoy a mini tasting party of all the baked goods entered in the baking contest. It was a nice ending to a quick

weekend. Members were able to snack on goodies and chat with each other before departing.

The State Grange was disappointed to have had a short meeting, but thankful to have it rescheduled so quickly. Next year, the meeting will be back at the same location with hopefully a regular schedule. Following Convention, a survey was emailed to attendees asking about their opinions on the condensed version. The staff will review these notes and suggestions going forward with future meetings.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2018 State Convention a successful meeting!



NC GRANGE AGENT ELECTED TO SERVE AS NC SENATOR

By: Mark Davis

One of our own NC Grange Agents is headed to Raleigh as a freshman Senator to represent the residents of District 12. Jim Burgin is a longtime agent for our NC Grange BCBSNC program with his agency, C&D Insurance. Jim has provided his clients with timely and faithful service over the years.



Several years ago, Jim became involved in the Harnett County political scene with his bid to serve as a county commissioner. He served two terms on that board and saw many of his goals accomplished, including a fiscally sound county government

operation. After his successful tenure as a county commissioner, he chose to seek election to represent his district in Raleigh as their Senator. When asked why he wanted to serve in such a position, he replied that through his eight years as a County Commissioner, he realized that some things could only be accomplished through the legislative process. The major goals he campaigned for were jobs, education, mental health and opioid issues. "These are big things that takes collaborative statewide efforts to resolve."

In addition to the C&D Insurance Agency, Jim also serves as Chairman of the Board to New Horizon Insurance Group, as is President of B.C. Properties, Inc. - a real estate development company. He is also a partner in John Hiestler Automotive which owns Chevrolet and Chrysler Dodge Jeep dealerships.

What Is Milk?

By: Jimmy Gentry

Is milk a product that comes from almonds, coconuts, soybeans, rice, or some other plant? Or is milk a product that originates from cows or goats? Under current terminology, the answer is both. There is a growing concern within the dairy industry about the confusion that could be created regarding the quality of plant based products versus milk from dairy animals. Dairy producers are also concerned about the direct competition that exists from these plant based beverages.

The Food and Drug Administration defines milk as a substance derived from lactating dairy animals. Many plant based products are now on grocery store shelves that are labeled as milk. An effort is underway within the agriculture industry urging FDA to enforce their definition of milk, and stop plant based products from being labeled as milk. NC Grange supports this effort. The dairy industry is suffering. We believe that FDA enforcement could be helpful to dairy farmers. We continue to lose dairy farms in North Carolina because the profit margins are so low. This industry is vital to all of us and we want to protect it to the extent that we can.

While we believe that only dairy animal products should be labeled as milk, we have no issue with plant based beverages because these are also derived from agricultural products. We simply think they should be labeled as something other than milk, perhaps almond beverage, or soybean beverage. By doing so, both the dairy industry as well as the plant based beverage industry would have the opportunity to thrive.



Vermont

2018
National Grange
Convention



23

North Carolinians boarded planes for snowy Stowe, Vermont to participate in the 152nd National Grange Convention the week before Thanksgiving. The Northeast Connection, a network of states that include Vermont, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut served as the host region. The week was met with below average temperatures, topping out at only the mid-twenties for most of the week, but North Carolinians were prepared with warm coats and good attitudes!

Most of the North Carolina members arrived on Wednesday, in time for the Distinguished Grange/Legacy Family reception. Members also got to enjoy Ben & Jerry's ice cream sundaes while Granges and members were recognized by National Grange Vice President, Phil Prelli of Connecticut. Troutman, Westbrook, Grantham, St. John's and Cape Fear Granges were recognized, as well as Jessica Horton who was named as a *Legacy Family*.



Following the reception, members were invited into the session room for the recognition of states represented at Convention. Chris Hamp, National Program Director then provided a touching presentation of twenty handmade quilts to veterans with the Quilts of Valor organization. Nineteen men and one woman received quilts, one of which was Harold Bergeron, a 103 year old veteran, who served in WWII. When a torpedo hit his ship in 1944, the list of men in his platoon, along with the help of Mr. Bergeron's memory led to the recreation of a roster of the more than 800 men lost in the attack.



Thursday morning, most of the nondelegates gathered in the Stowflake Resort lobby to board buses for the tour. Grangers were bused to Montpelier, Vermont to tour the museum and State House. The museum holds historical references and artifacts of Vermont's history. The group learned the the Vermont Capitol is the smallest in the Nation.

The group departed Montpellier for the Cabot Cheese farmers store where everyone was able to taste and purchase cheese, other gifts and shop the surrounding area.



The tour group headed back to Stowe with time to have dinner and get ready for the youth party. Youth were divided prior to convention into teams and were tasked to represent their team that evening. One team was Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavors, one was crayons and one was states.

On Friday morning, the Youth Officer Team opened session. North Carolina had five officers: Cole Settle, Gatekeeper; Amber Long, Executive Committe; Hannah Gentry, Secretary; Ashely Drop, Pomona; and Tyler Leonard, Treasurer. They performed the opening flawlessly!



Friday afternoon was filled with informative workshops for youth, juniors and adults to take part. That evening, everyone boarded buses to the Stowe Ski Resort Auditorum for the Evening of Excellence. North Carolina was well represented with two acts. The Bellas sign-a-song group was made up of Ashley Holloman, Emily Hartsell, Jennie Gentry, Baylor Howerton, Katie Leonard, Ashely Drop, Rylee Furr, Amber Long and Hannah Gentry. They took first place in the People's Choice division. Ashley Drop also presented her emotional speech on mental illness. Perhaps the highlight of the evening for North Carolina was the top youth positions being given to both of the North Carolina Ambassadors. Rylee Furr of St. John's and Zac

Mazag of Trouman were named National Grange Youth Ambassadors. This honor is usually split between states, but this year both come from North Carolina!

Saturday, Grangers participated in the 7th Degree as well as enjoyed a little more sightseeing. Members made trips to Ben and Jerry's for their tour and ice cream, as well as the Vermont Teddybear Company for souvenirs. That evening, the Saturday evening banquet was held back at the resort to celebrate a wonderful week in Vermont. Everyone is looking forward to next year's convention to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Make plans to attend next year with the Great Plains Region!



I am saddened by all the mass shootings that are taking place in our country now. I am saddened by all the hatred in our country. We have just finished an election last month, and whatever side you are on, you must admit that you got tired of all the TV ads that were almost totally negative. Both sides were tearing down the other side. No one had clean hands and a pure heart.

I am going to give a devotion that my friend Rick King gave at our last United Methodist men's meeting.

"I am out of sync! How am I as a Christian supposed to act in this season of politics, governance and election? Where is dignity, integrity, honesty, honor, forthrightness and esteemed character? All I see and hear are lies, exaggerations, attacks, immoral behavior, belittling, polarized positions, questionable character, self interest, and me-first attitudes.

"How do I sift through opinion and noise to get to the truth? Does any candidate say what they plan to do or is attacking their opponent sufficient for me to determine who will lead us?

"What guidance does the Bible give?"

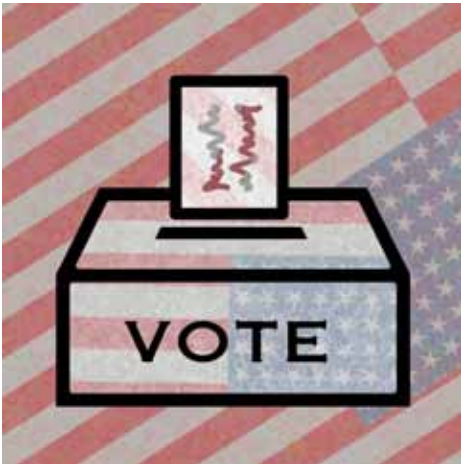
"Jesus said a very interesting thing in Luke 20:25. 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.' And later to Pontius Pilot, the governor of Judea, who claimed that he had authority over Jesus himself, Jesus responded, 'You would have no authority over me at all unless it has been given you from above' (John 19:11). Paul writes in Romans 13, 'Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.'

Wow! God is at work. He saves the world through the person and the work of Jesus. THAT'S THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE. To make sure that message gets out for all to hear. God keeps the world civil, humane, just and safe (outwardly) through people like civil authorities and civil government. So, God is at work in the world in two distinct ways. One, to keep things civil and humane and just through His created order of family, work and government... broken and sinful as they are. He still works through them to prevent chaos and all hell from breaking loose. That is God's left-hand kingdom rule, his engagement to bless. Of course, that's not the good news. The great news is of His salvation by grace through faith in the person and work of Jesus. But that left-hand kingdom work of God, even though relatively moral, unbelievers are part of his work of blessing too. When Christians engage in the public realm, full of philosophies, ideologies, and appetites emanating from sinful, broken people just like us, God gives us wisdom, wisdom to pick leaders who will be honorable, who will help maintain a society that allows for the work of the church. We know there is work to do to keep things sane, humane, just and safe. But that work is part of God's greater work to get the ultimate message of Christ out there for all to hear. Keep it safe, so the church can speak. Keep it just, so chaos is kept at bay. Give us rules to live in peace, so there can be opportunities to share the message of grace over the fences of neighbors living side by side in peace.

God's ways, two distinct ways, two kingdoms, two specific types of engagement. ONE MISSION... TO ULTIMATELY BLESS THE WORLD NOW AND FOREVER."

With the 2018 Elections in the rearview mirror, political leaders are not only focused on what the new political landscape looks like but what they can accomplish during the lame duck session. There is unfinished business on both State and Federal levels.

The North Carolina General Assembly will look dramatically different when they convene in January of 2019. Below is a synopsis of the NC elections.



Amendment Results:

- Hunting & Fishing – Passed
- Marcy's Law – Passed
- Tax Cap – Passed
- Voter ID – Passed
- Judicial Vacancies – Failed (almost 2-1)
- Boards & Commissions – Failed (almost 2-1)

Courts:

- NC Supreme Court is now comprised of 5 democrats and 2 republicans.
- NC Court of Appeals is now comprised of 8 democrats and 7 republicans.

NC House - 66 Republican seats (was 75) 54 Democrat seats (was 4)

Republican Losses:

- Nelson Dollar (R-Wake) to Julie von Haefen (D-Wake)
- Chris Malone (R-Wake) to Terence Everitt (D-Wake)
- John Adcock (R-Wake) to Sydney Batch (D-Wake)
- Jonathan Jordan (R-Ashe) to Ray Russell (D-Watauga)

- Mike Clampitt (R-Swain) to Joe Sam Queen (D-Swain)
- Andy Dulin (R-Mecklenburg) to Brandon Lofton (D-Mecklenburg)
- Scott Stone (R-Mecklenburg) to Wesley Harris (D-Mecklenburg)
- John Bradford (R-Mecklenburg) to Christy Clark (D-Mecklenburg)
- Bill Brawley (R-Mecklenburg) to Christy Clark (D-Mecklenburg)
- Democrat Losses:
- George Graham (D – Lenoir) to Chris Humphrey (R – Lenoir)
- Bobbie Richardson (D – Franklin) to Lisa Stone Barnes (R – Nash)

NC Senate – 29 Republican seats (was 35) 21 Democrat seats (was 15)

- Wesley Meredith (R-Cumberland) lost to Kirk DeViere (D-Cumberland)
- Michael Lee (R-New Hanover) lost to Harper Peterson (D-New Hanover)
- Trudy Wade (R-Guildford) lost to Michael Garrett (D-Guildford)
- Tamara Barringer (R-Wake) lost to Sam Searcy (D-Wake)
- Jeff Tarte (R-Mecklenburg) lost to Natasha Marcus (D-Mecklenburg)

The General Assembly has lost their “super majority.” Now, because legislation will not be “veto-proof,” Governor Cooper will play a much more relevant role. The other positions that will be impacted are the Senior Appropriations Chairman held by Rep. Dollar, and the Health and Human Services Appropriations Chairman held by Rep. Malone.

On the Congressional front, the only major change that we will see in our North Carolina delegation is Robert Pittenger's seat. Mark Harris, a Baptist minister from Charlotte, will take his place. Harris beat Congressman Pittenger in the May primaries. Obviously with the House of Representatives in Congress losing the majority, there will be many changes; the Senate, however kept their Republican majority so their leadership will not change parties.

The latest update of the catastrophic cost of Hurricane Florence has now risen to \$1.1 billion. On October 15, 2018, the North Carolina General Assembly established

the Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Program of 2018. This is a one-time assistance program for agricultural producers who suffered a loss due to Hurricane Florence. Although the program has been established, assistance will be dependent upon appropriations from the North Carolina General Assembly. The program will be administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The NC General Assembly will convene November 27 to hopefully fund the Florence Disaster Relief package.

The process for applying for this relief program began November 7. The website for applying for assistance is www.ncagr.gov/agriculturaldisasterprogram. The deadline to apply for disaster relief is December 10, however there is current legislation to extend this deadline. The exceptions to the deadline are below;

- Livestock/poultry producers without USDA LIP payment may extend their deadline to March 1, 2019 upon written request in the application.
- Nursery crops, fruit-bearing trees and bushes, and specialty crops where the survival level is not immediately known, may extend their deadline to May 1, 2019 upon written request in the application.

To date, Congress still has not passed the Farm Bill. However, Mike Conaway, House Ag Committee Chairman, says, “We’re darn close.” President Trump and Senate Leader Mitch McConnell are both resolved in getting a Farm Bill passed by year's end. McConnell was quoted as saying that the Farm Bill is one of two items that “absolutely have to be accomplished.” Other outgoing, unresolved points of contention include the conservation title and regulatory language and nutrition, or SNAP program. (*Southern Farm Network 11-19-18*)



FURR AND MAZAG NAMED NATIONAL YOUTH AMBASSADORS

By: Jennie Gentry



I am a huge Carolina Panthers fan. I have watched every season hoping that one day I will be able to scream, yell and hug everyone around me when they finally win the Super Bowl. If you were to have seen me at the Evening of Excellence on Friday night of the National Grange Convention when Rylee Furr and Zac Mazag were named the National Youth Ambassadors, you would have thought that the Panthers had finally won their Super Bowl.

Rylee and Zac have served all year as our State Youth Ambassadors, working extremely hard to lead, mentor and help make our Youth Program a great success this year. They have led the Youth Team, have helped lift others up as leaders, and have stepped in and stepped up anytime they are needed. They exemplify leadership and professionalism and are well-respected by their peers.

Their leadership experience throughout the year also prepared them for their trip to the National Convention where they participated in an interview for a chance to become one of the National Youth Ambassadors. It is a tradition that the new Ambassadors are announced the Friday night of the convention. When that moment came, Emily Hartsell, Katie Leonard and I sat holding hands nervously. When Zac Mazag was announced first for the Male Ambassadors, our eyes lit up and we cheered as his sash was put over him. Then came the Female Ambassador announcement. As Rylee Furr's name was called, we lost it. Screams. Cheers. Hugs. My hands went over my mouth in pure shock and then tears streamed down my cheeks. Both of our Ambassadors were selected in the top leadership honor for youth in the National Grange, and rarely are two from the same state selected. I felt like we had won the Super Bowl.

Zac Mazag, a member of Troutman Grange, is a Sophomore at UNC-Charlotte where he is studying Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies. He is a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, is the current State Grange Youth Vice-President, and is an avid bowler. On being selected as National Youth Ambassador, Zac stated, "I look forward to being a voice for the youth and hope to make a positive impact on the program and on youth across the country. I'm also honored that I get to share the experience with Rylee."

After being named to this role, Rylee Furr stated, "I was in absolute shock when my name was called! This is a huge honor and I am very excited to serve this year with Zac by my side. I can't begin to thank NC for their support of us through this journey." Rylee, from St. John's Grange, is a Junior at NC State University studying Polymer and Color Chemistry. She is our State Grange Youth President this year and attends any NCSU sporting event that she possibly can with great pride in the Wolfpack.

Within the week after being named, both of these amazing leaders had already started communicating ideas with the two Young Adult Patrons, all four of whom make up the 2019 National Grange Youth Team. What an incredible testament this is to the amazing young leaders that our NC Grange Youth Program builds!



NC Youth Visit Vermont

By: Jennie Gentry

A large group of youth and young adults represented North Carolina at the National Grange Convention in snowy Stowe, Vermont in November. Bringing home several big honors and awards, it was quite a successful trip for our youth.

NC youth were involved in many different leadership roles and contests during the convention while engaging in activities and interacting with people from across the country. Among those who represented our state were NC State Youth Ambassadors, Ryee Furr (St. John's Grange) and Zac Mazag (Troutman Grange).

Five of our youth served as National Youth Officers this year and opened the Friday morning Grange Session with a drill and officer opening. Made up of youth from across the country, the officer team did an excellent job with this long-time convention tradition. Serving from NC were Ashley Drop as Pomona; Hannah Gentry as Secretary; Tyler Leonard as Treasurer; Amber Long on the Executive Committee; and Cole Settle as Gatekeeper.

Friday evening of the convention held the popular Evening of Excellence, for which NC had a big representation and several first-place wins. Ashley Drop (Arcadia Grange) placed first in the National Public Speaking Contest and won Audience Choice for her powerful speech on depression, bullying and supporting each other. The "NC Grange

Bellas" were back this year with their Group Sign-a-Song performance to the second Pitch Perfect Finale. They won first place and Audience Choice in the Sign-a-Song Contest. This group was made up of Ashley Drop,

not contain their screams when both Ryee Furr and Zac Mazag were named the National Grange Youth Ambassadors for this year.

Just before the event, our youth attended the National GROW Club Banquet where awards were presented. In a special ceremony at the banquet, the Youth Ambassadors were inducted into the National Grange GROW Club. Emily Hartsell, GROW Club Board Member for the Southeast Region, helped with the inductions.

Saturday morning of the convention held the fifth annual National Grange Parliamentary Procedure Contest, for which six of our youth worked hard to prepare. After a written test, live performance, and judges' questions, our NC team placed second in the contest. This team was made up of Ryee Furr, Tyler Leonard, Amber Long, Cole Settle, Zac Mazag, and Katie Leonard, who served as President. Katie also received "Best Chairman" for the contest.

Outside of the awards, honors and performances, this outstanding group of young people represented our state demonstrating

professionalism, hard work, dedication to the Grange, and love for their Grange friendships. They supported each other through all activities and cheered each other on, which is part of what makes the Grange "family" so special. We are extremely proud of our youth.



Ryee Furr, Hannah Gentry, Jennie Gentry, Emily Hartsell, Ashley (Pedersen) Holloman, Baylor Howerton, Katie Leonard and Amber Long.

The Evening of Excellence is also the time when the National Youth Ambassadors give their final speeches and pass their roles on to the new Ambassadors. North Carolina could

Amber Long Recognized for Outstanding Service

By: Jennie Gentry

At the Celebration Banquet of the 152nd National Grange Convention, Amber Long was the recipient of the inaugural National Grange Outstanding Service Award. Each State Grange can nominate one youth for this special recognition that honors a young person for their dedication to community service, and North Carolina was proud to see Amber Long awarded for all she does. Amber has served her community in a wide variety of ways. Through the Grange, she has taken part in the MedAssist projects; made items for nursing home residents; made blankets for the children's hospital; has written letters for our troops; and has served as a Junior Mentor. Through school, Amber's service involves a long list of projects in which she has been involved. Some of these include yard work for local churches and the elderly, making dog toys for the animal shelter, sponsoring a child for an Angel Tree and annual collections for various needs for her local Christian Help Center that helps with outreach to the homeless, the abused, the sick and the needy. She also participated weekly as a tutor for elementary and middle school students. Moreover, in her own time, Amber volunteers at a local preschool to work with children and to help where needed. In her nomination, Jennie Gentry stated, "Amber goes above and beyond when it comes to serving her community. She loves helping people and recognizes how important it is to serve others, and she does so with such a compassionate, giving heart." Amber is currently a Freshman at NC State University studying elementary education.



Are the Preparations Ready?

Back in September, we were honored to host a wedding for a couple who met here on the farm while volunteering for Rolling Ridge Riding, Inc., an equestrian therapy non-profit that Kathryn and I started back in 2000 for special needs children. The covered area had the old dusty footing removed and a freshly, almost dustless footing installed. The bride's father installed a couple of new decorative lighting fixtures that he handmade in preparation for the reception. They also prepared the riding ring for the wedding ceremony. The riding ring panels were removed and stored out of sight, as were the "bridge" the horses carried their riders across and all the other props. The bride's family planned on the final touchups for Thursday and Friday before the rehearsal on Saturday and the wedding on Sunday. There was a possibility of a little rain on Thursday, but only a slight chance - maybe.

The saying, "the best laid plans of mice and men can go astray," fit the situation here on the farm on Thursday. It was not just a little rain, but almost eight inches, most falling within just a very few hours. Michael had struck! We had very little rain fall until around 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. At 2:30 p.m., we were supposed to meet our son and his family at the Raleigh airport – as he was one of the groomsmen. But, our drive way was partially flooded with rushing water that rose over two feet deep in spots. Needless to say, we were not going to Raleigh that day and our other son who lives in Raeford had to pick up his brother at the airport. Before 3:30 p.m., the power flickered once, twice, and then it was lights out! We continued to watch the lake rise out our back door as it got even higher on the dam which also serves as our driveway. Finally around 6:00 p.m. the rain subsided a bit and we ventured outside to survey the situation and make an initial assessment of IF we could have a wedding here on Sunday or not. The water around the spill way was directed away from the back of the lake dam, so we were relieved the dam and drive was not in immediate peril; however both would most likely need some patching as soon as the water receded. Our guest parking plans and route to get them from the parking area to the ceremony/reception required rethinking due to a washed out farm road. Otherwise, we thought we should be good to go and have the wedding as planned. Hopefully, we would have power back shortly.

On Friday, everyone worked at double pace to make up for Thursday's lost time in addition to cleanup from the storm. Mowers and string trimmers manicured the barn and ring areas. Hay was stacked in front of the riding ring loading area for the bride and grooms backdrop, and chairs were setup for the guest. All was getting back in shape, except the anticipated return of power! The latest projection slated power restoration on Tuesday night before midnight. Fortunately, we have a tractor-powered generator that can supply the farm's electrical needs. However, that power comes with an elevated noise level. The tractor runs at approximately 2200 rpms when the generator is in operation, and



while the noise level is not excessive, it is quite noticeable as you are in the vicinity of the back yard.

With only a very few minor modifications, the wedding and reception went exceptionally well. There were several guests that could not even tell Michael had any effect on the farm at all, including a power outage.

Now let me tie these events back to some insurance matters. We plan our lives, careers, and retirement around what we know now and want for the future. We may know there is a "Michael" out there brewing sometimes, and maybe, it has a small chance of actually affecting us. How we make preparations for life's Michaels can have a long lasting effect on not only yourself but those within your family if and when adversity occurs. Had we not had the tools and equipment readily available to clean-up and power the farm, the wedding would not have occurred at the couple's choice location. Their wedding would occur, but at their second choice, a backup location. Their dream of a "farm wedding" would pass them by without a second chance of making those memories. All the hard work that they put in the preparation of the farm wedding would be naught.

Some of the tools we have to protect you and your family include Life Insurance, Disability Coverage, Long Term Care, Critical Care, and of course, Health Insurance. These tools are job specific and many are customizable to fit you and your family's individual needs and budget.

As we start looking forward into this New Year, give us a call today, and let one of our NC Grange Agents assist you in preparation for any "Michael" that could wreck you and your family's plans and dreams.

From Joyce

Community Service & Family Living Director

Our overnight convention in Durham was certainly different for us this year. We were quite busy getting everyone checked in for the contests and it seemed to pass ever so quickly. I felt like I missed seeing so many and did not get to renew old friendships, but it was good that we were actually able to have a convention. Thank you for your interest in entering your crafts and baked goods this year.

I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Baking and Craft contests this year at convention. Although we had just one overnight stay, we still had a number of entries in both categories. I missed having time to talk with many of you and certainly missed our Tasting Party. We met at the state office the following week to discuss ideas and options for next year. I gave a lot of thought to our baking contests after returning from convention. I made some suggestions, and we looked at how we might make some changes to possibly spark some new interest in this area.

With boxed mixes and frozen pie crusts, we live in a time where things have

changed in the baking industry. We have also been using the same categories for apples, sweet potatoes, berries and nuts for as long as I have been in the Grange; maybe longer. Therefore, we are looking at new categories for our baking contest next year.

In the past, we have required homemade crusts and no cake mixes. This year, we will be accepting the use of cake mixes, pudding mix, and store-bought pie crusts. The new categories are listed on this page as well.

I hope you will enjoy this new update to our baking contest, and will begin collecting recipes to enter next fall.

Merry Christmas!

CAKES:

Pound Cake, Layer Cake & Cakes that include a mix or pudding

PIES:

Fruit, Nut, Custard

COBBLER:

Fruit

BREADS:

Banana Nut, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato

COOKIES:

Fruit, Nut/Nut Butter, Oatmeal, Chocolate Chip



In Memoriam

Mr. Lewis Adams

Mr. Ray Kennedy

Mr. Phillip Sloop

Mrs. John H. Davis

Mr. Richard Williams

Beaufort Co. Grange

Beaufort Co. Grange

Corriker Grange

Associate Member

Westbrook Grange

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

Psalm 118:28

** 50 Year Member*

FERGUSON GRANGE

Ferguson Grange made jars of "patchwork soup mix" to give to the elderly in their community as part of their community service projects.

Front row from left to right are: Clarkie Brown, Pam McCarrick, Sharon Carter Underwood

Back row: RP Minton, Lisa Hicks, Mike Brown and Cindy Van Sweden.





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Merry Christmas!