

The official publication of the NC Grange

September / October 2021

GRANGE NEWS

2021 STATE CONVENTION



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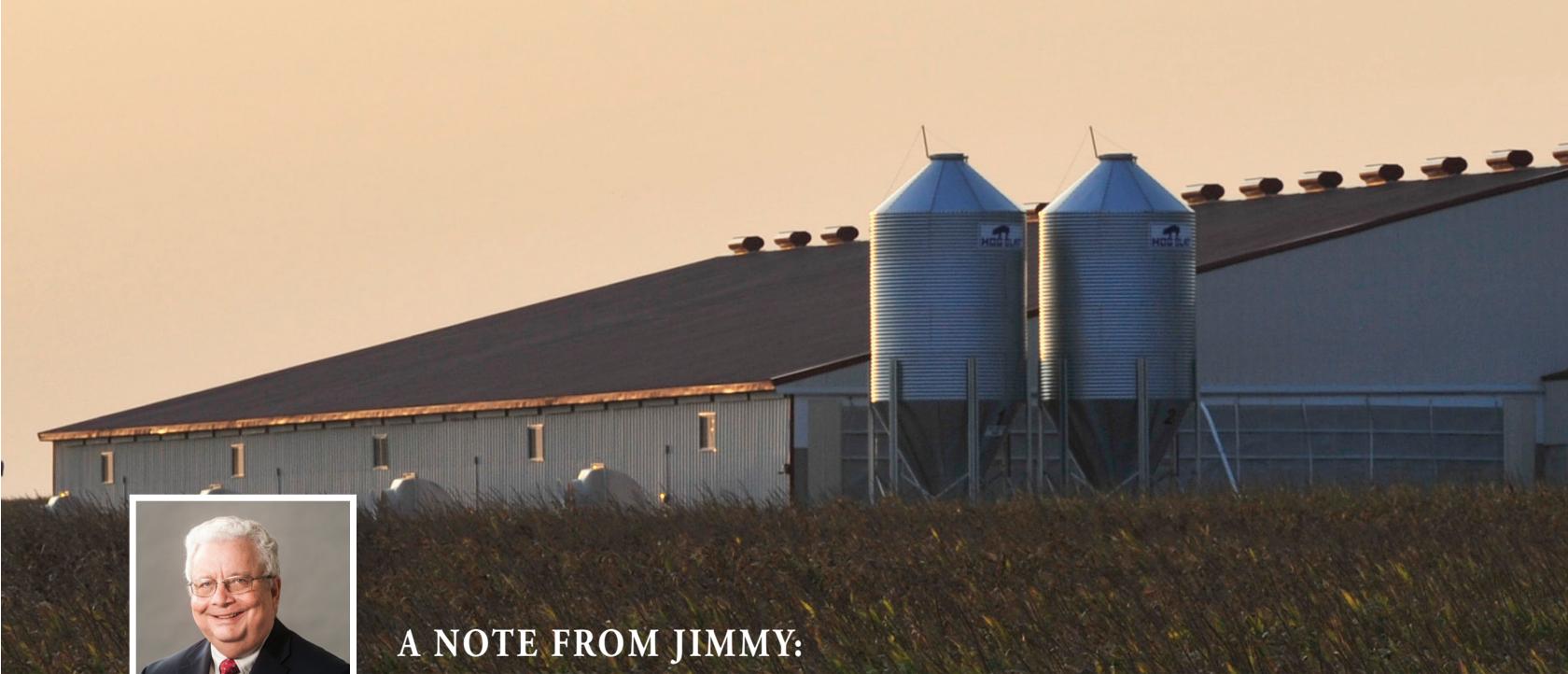
UPCOMING EVENTS

October 14-24	NC State Fair
November 9-13	National Convention, Wichita, Kansas

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:

WE WORK FOR HEALTH COALITION

Several years ago, we made the decision that NC Grange should be part of a coalition called We Work for Health (WWFH). As we experience growing concerns about access and affordability in regards to health care, we found that the policies of this coalition are very much aligned with those of NC Grange. In 2015 our organization was presented with a Partner Appreciation Award by the coalition, and we still remain an active partner today.

A few of the policy stands of this coalition are briefly stated as follows:

- Maintaining a healthy pharma industry that is able to innovate and take risks.
- Protecting innovative ideas from theft.
- Limiting out of pocket drug costs.
- Oppose schemes that would allow unsafe imported drugs.
- Keep Medicare programs strong.

Through the WWFH coalition, NC Grange has been able to advocate for our established health policies on behalf of the membership.

NC Grange works closely with a lobbying firm in Raleigh called Randolph Cloud and Associates. We have become good friends with the staff that includes Barden Culbreth, one of our new State Grange officers from Capitol Grange. This agency has assisted us greatly in becoming part of the WWFH coalition which is made up of great partners. Go to their website, www.weworkforhealth.org and click on North Carolina. You will see a video of Laurie Barnhart speaking on behalf of the State Grange. We are happy to be a partner in this group and we look forward to continued activity with this coalition.

Are you still getting mail from us?

In the past year, many issues of Grange News have been returned to us in the mail. Some are returned due to incorrect addresses, or someone moved and there was no forwarding address. Please remember to update your local Grange and / or the NC Grange office of any changes to your mailing address or email. We want to ensure that our members are getting the information we send. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Greene at kegreene@ncgrange.com.





2021 STATE CONVENTION by: Jessica Horton REMEMBERING 9/11

The NC Grange met for its 93rd State Convention in September at the University Hilton in Charlotte, NC. This year, 23 Granges were represented and over 150 members and guests attended all or some of the convention. Everyone was ready for an in-person meeting, and this was the first one in two years! During the weekend, the 20th anniversary of September 11 occurred. The NC Grange honored those who paid the ultimate sacrifice that day as well as the 13 lost in Afganastan in the week prior to convention.

Grangers began arrival on Thursday in time for a Sixth Degree practice with Matron, Vinnie Duncan. Friday brought a welcome schedule change that included an off-site tour of the Billy Graham Library in the morning. Grangers enjoyed

fellowshipping on the bus and at the library. Seeing all the historical documents, artifacts and videos the library has to offer was a special treat.

Upon arrival back at the hotel, attendees had lunch and a special presentation from Paula Faust of Baby Bundles, our 2020 and 2021 Community Service Project. Paula spoke briefly about her involvement with the organization and graciously accepted the hundreds of items donated by Grangers across North Carolina. (A full list of donated items can be found on page 15.) Following Paula was a presentation from Bennie Grady. He manages the North Carolina Caisson Unit at his home in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He spoke about the value of having a relationship with the local Grantham Grange and the NC Grange. He brought his truck and trailer to show off how the Caisson Unit honors those fallen in service. Grantham Grange worked to build a barn to house hay for the unit's horses.



Next, convention officially opened with NC Grange President Jimmy Gentry's annual address and then a presentation from NC Soil and Water Foundation's President, Amanda Sand. During presentations, a crew of volunteers led by Bobbie Dellinger NC Grange Program Director, collected contest entries all day Friday and Saturday morning. They organized the baked goods, photography, artwork and craft entries for judging on Saturday.

The afternoon also brought the annual Awards Ceremony and reception. Entries were judged several weeks prior to convention and the winners were invited to attend this event. Included in these awards were the Barnhardt Farm, named Farm of the Year, and 98-year-old year old Phillip Corriher, named Granger of the Year. Look for articles on both award recipients in coming issues of *Grange News*.



Saturday morning brought breakfast with Rob Christensen, a former journalist with the *News and Observer* out of Raleigh. He is author of the book, "The Rise and Fall of the Branchhead Boys," which chronicles the Scott Family and their rise and fall of power in North Carolina politics.

The youth and juniors then opened the business meeting in traditional form with Cole Settle, Youth President, presiding. These young Grangers did a fabulous job as always! The delegate body then proceeded with resolution work and debate. A resolution titled "Growth of the North Carolina Grange" was presented via Corriher Grange. This resolution resolved to allocate two million dollars to local Granges to enhance their appearance, and programs as follows:

For real property renovations, the Subordinate Grange shall submit a request including a statement of need, and an estimate from a licensed contractor for necessary improvements; for work that can be legally and competently accomplished by Grange member volunteers, an estimate of materials shall be included.

For program related funding requests, the Subordinate Grange shall submit a description of said program, with an explanation



as to how the program will enhance their visibility, credibility and reputation in the community. Program related requests shall not exceed \$1000 per subordinate member.

All requests from the Subordinate Grange for funding shall include how an allocation of funds from the NC Grange will grow membership in the requesting Subordianate Grange."

This resolution, along with several others, passed. You are encouraged to talk with your local Grange chapter about resolutions discussed during the convention.

Grangers broke from business to celebrate the Youth and Junior accomplishments with a luncheon that honored all they have done during this year. Many parents were able to attend, and the room was packed! Many awards were given to deserving kids, and the top award of Youth of the Year was presented to Cole Settle of Little Mountain Grange. A full article on him can be found on page nine.



During the afternoon business meeting, elections were also conducted. This was the full election year and most seats were up for nomination. Several changes came to the Board of Directors, as some who held positions elected to not re-run for their term and others were elected to alternative positions. A full list of the new officers can be found on page two.



During this time, President Gentry presented a plaque to Dianne Hudson on behalf of her husband Ned and his service to the Grange. Ned served as the NC Grange Vice President for several decades and has decided he is now unable to fulfill that role. Ned has been a true treasure to the organization.



After business concluded, the Sixth Degree Team got into place. They executed the degree with grace, led by David Allen who served the role of President for the conferral.

Saturday evening, Grangers relaxed for a BBQ dinner on the pool deck followed by an evening of dancing. All ages joined in for popular square dances including Marching through Georgia, The Steal, and The Grand March. The baked goods from the baking contests were also cut for everyone to enjoy while mingling with Grange friends.

Sunday morning brought the end of our convention with a memorial service for all those lost during 2020 and 2021. Newly elected NC Grange Chaplain LaRue Tart of Grantham Grange led a beautiful worship service, and the CannanLand Trio of LaRue Tart, Jimmy Martin and Shirley Edwards provided music.

Grangers departed for their trip home, looking forward to our spring meeting to be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina! Thanks to all who helped make this convention a wonderful success!



*TO OUR NEWEST
GRANGE MEMBERS!*

- Brenda Cox - Beaufort County
- Cameron Hill - Beaufort County
- Paula Cayton - Beaufort County
- Ethan Carawan - Beaufort County
- James Hunt - Capitol
- Charlotte Walton (Jr) - Grantham
- Joseph McCaffrey - Guilford
- Ann Hollowell - Schley
- Dick Harmsen - Schley
- Susan Heckman - Schley
- Allison Clapper - Schley
- Jennifer Cameron - Southern Wake
- Jessica Cameron - Southern Wake
- Clayton Cameron - Southern Wake
- Nick Cameron (Jr) - Southern Wake

In Memoriam

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Edward Chandler</i> | <i>Beaufort County</i> |
| <i>William Cox</i> | <i>Beaufort County</i> |
| <i>Patricia Hodges</i> | <i>Beaufort County</i> |
| <i>Grady Cooper, Jr.</i> | <i>Capitol</i> |
| <i>Evelyn Kerr</i> | <i>Corriher</i> |
| <i>Phil Dwiggins</i> | <i>Patterson</i> |
| <i>Carol Dwiggins</i> | <i>Patterson</i> |

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

*Psalm 118:28
* 50 Year Member*



APPLE WALNUT CAKE

LINDA ICARD - EDNEYVILLE GRANGE
GRAND PRIZE BAKING WINNER

1 2/3 Cups Sugar
3 Eggs
1/2 Cup Vegetable Oil
2 Teaspoons Vanilla
2 Cups All Purpose Flour
2 Teaspoons Baking Soda
1 1/2 Teaspoons Cinnamon
1 Teaspoon Salt
1/2 Teaspoon Nutmeg
4 Cups Chopped, Unpeeled Apples
1 Cup Chopped Walnuts

Frosting:

3 Tablespoons Softened Butter
2 Packages (3OZ) Cream Cheese
1 Teaspoon Vanilla
1 1/2 Cups Confectioners Sugar

Directions:

Beat sugar and eggs in mixing bowl. Add oil and vanilla to mixture. Combine flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in separate bowl. Slowly add dry mix to wet mixture. Stir in apples and walnuts. Pour into a greased, floured bunt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 - 50 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Frosting: Beat cream cheese, butter and vanilla in a mixing bowl. Gradually add confectioners sugar until it has reached spreading consistency. Frost cooled cake.



HEADQUARTERS by : Betsy Huber, National Grange President
THE FATE OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE BUILDING

Every Grange member is extremely proud of our headquarters building, located around the corner from the White House in Washington, DC. We own a beautiful, 11 story building in a fantastic location in the capitol city of our country.

The building is 61 years old now and hasn't always had the ongoing maintenance that it needed. There are a lot of little problems like leaking pipes, an aging electrical system, and lots of other big things that are needing attention. Recent updates include new roof, new boiler and a new air conditioning system, but many other repairs are necessary. Engineers have provided a variety of estimates and urgent versus important totaling \$4.5 million over the next eight years just to maintain the building's safety, status, and its justification for rental rates. Some more extensive repairs like wiring and piping may require us to vacate the building for about two years – both tenants and contents, including the National Grange offices.

To do any of those projects would require borrowing a lot of money, which is of course a concern. How will we repay the loans? We live off our current income-- we are saving a little bit of money, but nothing close to what it would take to make these needed improvements.

Mechanical issues are not the only problem facing the building, as outdated décor and a changing style of work brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic risks the ability of the Grange to find suitable tenants.

The conversation then turns to return on investment – which even with the best-case scenario would take years to pay off– or finding another way to fund the work such as a one-time or multi-year member assessment or major dues increase.

With a building appraised at \$13 million according to a 2018 appraisal, with a market value of possibly \$24 million, and a budget that relies heavily on the nearly \$400,000 a year rental income, clearly 1616 H Street is a great asset.

The question, though: Is it worth it? Should we mortgage the future just to have an office close to the White House? When does an asset become a liability because of the scope of work necessary?

The National Grange Executive Committee has been studying this issue for two years, and states, “all options are on the table.”

Those include borrowing and making necessary repairs in a well-planned, systematic way; or to sell the building outright and find a new building to purchase that is large enough to produce rental income or small enough to house only necessary operations and put the remaining sale profits into investments with hopes for good returns to support our programs and staff.

THE FACTS:

- The approximate value of the building:

-Assessed value (taxes)	\$9,072,010
-Appraised value 9/2018	\$13,000,000
-Market value	\$24,000,000
-Current mortgage	\$1,558,400.
- The income it brings in (generally)
 - Gross income- \$1.1 million; net \$385,300
- Repairs needed:
 - Urgent - \$485,000
 - 1-3 yrs. \$3,667,500
 - 4-8 yrs. \$825,000
 - Total needed repairs next 8 years= \$4.5 million
- Monthly payments on 20 year mortgage = \$40,060 = \$9.61 per member per year



COLE SETTLE NAMED 2021 YOUTH OF THE YEAR

by : Jennie Gentry

Cole Settle was named the 2021 NC Grange Youth of the Year at a special awards luncheon, September 11, at the NC Grange Convention in Charlotte. He was surprised with this honor in front of his family and Grange friends who enthusiastically cheered for him as he stepped up to the stage to receive his award.

Settle is a fourth generation Grange member. His father, Virgil, served on the State and National Grange Youth Teams, and his grandfather, Randy, served as the State Grange Youth Director for many years. His great-grandfather, Virgil Settle, was very instrumental in growing our membership by starting a large number of new Granges across the state. Many local Grange charters have his signature on them. Cole Settle has also proven to be excellent at spreading the word about the Grange and has even helped grow youth membership at Little Mountain Grange where he is a member.

Settle will tell you that he instantly loved the Grange after attending his first year of Grange Camp as a youth. Since then, he has become involved on local, state and national levels and has attended almost every State Grange event that he can possibly attend including Grange Camp, Winter Youth Conference and State Convention. Settle has also evolved into an incredible leader in our organization. He is the 2021 State Grange Male Youth Ambassador, member of the State Grange Youth Leadership Team, and current State Grange Youth President. Settle has worked very hard the past few years to lead activities and help plan events for our State Youth Program.

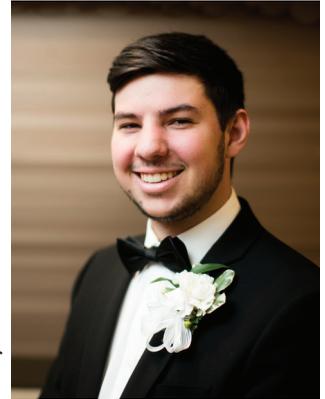
Settle has also received several other awards in the Grange including Grange Camp King, Best All Around, State Youth Director's Award, and the President's Award, which is one of the highest honors a youth in our state can receive. Settle also won first place in both the State and National Talent Competition in 2019 by playing mandolin in a bluegrass duet with James Lesley. He has also participated in several virtual talent shows for the National Grange.

Although Settle stands out as an excellent leader, his character, positive attitude, and work ethic are also what led the State Grange Youth Committee to select him as the recipient of this year's award. Settle goes out of his way to help others and especially looks out for those new to the youth program to make sure they are making new friends. He brings so much enthusiasm and fun to our youth events and is always willing to lead games and activities. Settle is also the guy that keeps everyone laughing and smiling. His teammates seek him for advice, and his peers look up to him, appreciating the friend they have in him. Our Grange counselors have been more than impressed by his motivation to go above and beyond what is asked of him as a young leader. While presenting Settle with a leadership award at the convention, Jimmy Gentry, State Grange President, stated it best when he said, "Cole is an impressive young man."

Settle enjoys serving his community in a wide variety of ways and is passionate about making a positive impact on others, something he credits the Grange for helping instill in him. He stated, "One of the most important things in life is making sure what I do matters. This ideology is one that has permeated every aspect of my life including the extracurricular activities I take part in and my career path. I have always been taken back by those who have no drive to help others, and as a result, I often find myself making decisions based on the impact they can have on those around me. I first came to the realization that what I do should matter through working with the Grange."

Outside of the Grange, Settle enjoys playing guitar and mandolin, hiking, being outdoors, and participating in shooting sports. A senior at Appalachian State University, he is studying criminal justice to become a Wildlife Officer. He is also a member of his university's Archery Team. Settle was a member of his high school FFA chapter and is an Eagle Scout. When he has time, he volunteers to help with the Boys Scouts. He also loves spending time with this family including his parents, Virgil and Mitzi Settle, and brothers Matthew and Carter.

It is easy to see why Settle was selected as this year's Grange Youth of the Year. His countless hours of hard work as a Grange youth leader and his love and passion for the organization are evident. This can be summed up in his words, "The Grange is by far the most influential organization I have ever been part of. I would not be the person I am today if it were not for the opportunities I've had and the help of all the friends I have made through the Grange." We congratulate Cole Settle on his award and his many accomplishments.



SCHLEY GRANGE LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

by : Katie Greene

On Sunday, September 12, Schley Grange held a special event to celebrate being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The occasion brought together the community, and it was great seeing people socializing and laughing. Even behind masks, you could see the smiles on the faces of those who attended and how much they love their community and its local Grange.

Schley Grange President David Latta started the program by welcoming everyone. He introduced Earl McKee, Orange County Commissioner – District 2, who welcomed elected officials attending the ceremony. After speaking about Schley and the fondness he has for his home community, County Commissioner McKee introduced NC House Representative Graig Meyer. Rep. Meyer congratulated Schley Grange on such a special recognition stating that it is the community and the people who win the honor, not the building. He recalled one of his most memorable events at the Grange Hall when it was packed with around 200 people, all gathered to discuss rural broadband, an event people in Schley are still talking about. Rep. Meyer stated, “The community is tuned in with what is happening around here!” He also suggested that Schley Grange should be a mandatory stop for all elected officials because they would never have to worry about getting a bad meal at the Grange. Anyone who has attended one of these meals would agree.



Speaking on the history of the organization and how Schley Grange acquired their building was former State Grange President, Robert Caldwell. Schley Grange entered the National Grange Community Service Contest which was sponsored by Sears Roebuck & Company. They competed against 37 other Granges across the country. There were four main projects that Schley Grange conducted for the contest. They established rural telephone service in the community, led soil conservation efforts, started a new youth program, and performed property work on Mars Hill Baptist Church. Schley Grange won first place and received a new building worth nearly \$50,000. In 1949, NC Governor W. Kerr Scott and Fowler McConnell, President of Sears Roebuck & Co., dedicated the building completely debt free. Schley Grange has been holding meetings and serving the community from this historical building since then.

After sharing the building’s history, Caldwell commended former Schley Grange President Katherine Cheek calling her one of the most influential Grange members Schley has ever had. He stated, “A spark plug without a battery is not much good. Katherine is the battery for Schley Grange.” After being thanked for all she has done, Cheek spoke of her own experience in the Grange stating that she did not grow up in the Grange, but she married into the Grange and has seen it grow over the years. She spoke about perseverance stating, “Do not give up until you get what you want.” That is exactly what Schley Grange has done over the years, and the story of how this Grange was put on the National Register of Historic Places is another example.

In 2013, Peter Kramer with the National Register contacted Katherine Cheek, wanting to ensure that Schley Grange received this honor. At that time, he was diagnosed with cancer and soon after lost his battle. Before passing away, he handed the baton to Peter Sanback, who Cheek described as being persistent. Sanbeck took over the project and would not give up. He even joined the Grange to learn more about the importance of the organization. His efforts obviously paid off. Sanback gave a brief history of Schley Grange, observing that its first organizational meeting was held on September 19, 1931. “The telephone project was so important in the 1930s, that it has looped back around to rural broadband today,” expressed Sanback.



After thanking Peter Sanback and Katherine Cheek for all of their hard work completing this historical project, David Latta stated, “The community is what makes the building.” Before ending the program, Latta, with members Bonnie Hauser and Pam Pittman, presented Cheek with a special plaque honoring her for 37 years of service as Schley Grange President, a well-deserved award.

As the outdoor ceremony ended, members and guests were invited to move inside the building to watch a special presentation on the history of the Schley Grange Hall and the Schley community. Tasty refreshments were also served on the front lawn as people reflected, mingled, and enjoyed a time of fellowship. There were many stories shared on that Sunday afternoon; stories that I will remember for years to come. Congratulations to Schley Grange on this honor.



TROUTMAN GRANGE & RESCUE RANCH

by : Katie Greene

Members of Troutman Grange ran a booth at the Rescue Ranch's Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 19, to promote the Grange. Members spoke with people about the Grange's many events, programs, and about joining the organization. The Rescue Ranch, located in Statesville, is a nonprofit dedicated to the rescue and health care of animals and also offers a pet adoption program. It was founded by NASCAR driver Ryan Newman and his wife, Krissie Newman. Troutman Grange made a connection with Rescue Ranch and both organizations look forward to working with each other in the future.



BUSHY FORK GRANGE

by : August Howerton

During the August Grange meeting, Bushy Fork Grange decided to allocate funds to purchase school supplies for local Oak Lane Elementary School. Beverly Moore went to an office supply store and purchased a variety of notebooks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, etc., based off of teacher wish lists at Oak Lane. On Thursday, September 7, 2021, the Grange delivered these goods to the school and was received by Principal Heather Bowling. It is a mission of the Grange to contribute to the community and help underprivileged students receive the education they deserve without having to worry about supplies. Principal Bowling was appreciative of the supplies and the effort the Grange made to help the community.



LOCAL GRANGE NEWS

OLD RICHMOND GRANGE AT BLACK WALNUT FESTIVAL

by : Kara Larabee

Saturday, September 18 was a picture-perfect day at the Black Walnut Festival in downtown historic Bethania, NC. With just the right weather, neighbors got out to see each other in person after missing last year's festival due to the pandemic. It was a great venue as well with a variety of vendors that made and sold crafts, baked goods, and seasonal produce.

Old Richmond Grange set up a booth at the festival to introduce the public to one of the area's oldest fraternal service organizations and to get the word out about what the local Grange is doing in the community. Members handed out many brochures and some NC Grange swag, and collected contact information to connect with potential new members.

At the booth, Grange members Virginia and Brian Bannigan collected funds for the Old Richmond Elementary School Community Garden while Jill Marler and Kara Larrabee demonstrated making crafts and sold them. In keeping with the spirit of the festival, a short table was also set up for kids and their folks to make drawings using handmade black walnut ink, and a clothesline was set up to dry and display them.

After a successful event, Old Richmond Grange is looking forward to following up on introductions and bringing in some new folks who are ready to contribute to supporting area agriculture in its many forms.



FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange held their August meeting at the beautiful and historic Mariah's Chapel in Caldwell County. It was an evening of fellowship and learning as Nathan Barlowe, a third-generation farmer, gave an interesting program on "Agriculture Today." Chapel photo by Eliza Bishop.



IT TAKES A LOT OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS

The Sunday after the State Grange Convention, we hosted a wedding at our farm for a Rolling Ridge Riding participant that successfully graduated the program. The wedding was a huge success with clear weather and good attendance. However, there was also a great deal of planning and forethought given to this special day.

The planning started almost a year in advance with the bride deciding where she wanted her wedding ceremony to occur. A date then had to be selected that worked for the couple and that fit into the farm schedule. For the desired September wedding, we had to work around State Grange Convention, the Rolling Ridge riding sessions, and our only fundraiser, a supper where participants receive trophy rewards.

Once the date was set, things seemed to move slowly from the farm aspect until June, when we met with the couple and the bride's family to hone down the exact location for the ceremony and the reception. We also discussed and planned logistical tasks such as moving corral panels out of the covered riding ring and where to place tables, chairs, and the important Porta-Johns for their guests.

Everyone was assigned tasks and a timeline of when the plan would be implemented. We met again in early August to review our individual plans, made and refined our list of tasks to complete, compared notes, and were ready to implement our plan of action. Yours truly was in charge of the general farm appearance such as cutting and baling the hay for the parking area, operating the tractor, and directing the ground crew for mowing and trimming the yard, as the groom wanted to contribute his lawn service company's services. Meanwhile, the bride's family

decorated the ceremony and reception areas.

While the hay field was not quite ready to cut yet, I started watching the weather forecast at the beginning of August for a window of opportunity to cut, rake, and bale the hay without it getting wet in the process. Fortunately, that window opened on Labor Day, which was just that, labor! I then had to complete my task of sprucing up the general farm appearance. It is amazing how one thing can lead to another, especially when you clean up one area and then three more areas catch



your attention. Working during the afternoons after my Grange work, the farm was in good shape by Thursday afternoon before the bride's family brought decorations and the groom came to do the yard and trim work.

The Friday before the wedding was a whirlwind of a day. We moved panels, water tubs, ring barrels, cones, and stored hay out of the covered riding ring. We also moved more of the same type of items from the outdoor riding ring. We groomed the arena with the pasture drag before hanging and setting up any decorations. Once the landscaping crew arrived, what normally takes me about four hours to mow took them less than an hour and a half. Of course, having four mowers

and three weed-eaters going at the same time is a huge benefit! We then worked in the covered area to hang the decorations on the two chandeliers and to hang curtains shielding the Porta-Johns from the guests' view.

Saturday brought more decorating. We also groomed the driveway and farm road from the hay field to the wedding site. Once that was in good shape, we washed a tractor and our RTV (a large four-wheeler with a bed) that pulled the trailer to transport guests from the parking area to the wedding site. Since the RTV is a frequently utilized farm vehicle to check cows, fences, deliver feed and supplies, it was in need of a good bath, leaving one to wonder, "How did mud get up there?" With all the dry weather, the tractor had to be fitted with the pasture sprayer, along with a small modification, to become a driveway / road sprayer in an attempt to keep the dust under control as vehicles traversed back and forth.

Sunday arrived with more dust control efforts before the bridal party started arriving. After applying another 150 gallons of water to the driveway and field road, I discovered that some shrubs were hindering the line of sight coming to the hay field from the east. I grabbed the pole saw and blade weed eater and took care of that issue. From there, I directed people where to go until the parking attendants arrived. After a quick lunch, I headed back out to the hay field to instruct the attendants of their duties to make sure everyone could get in and out of the parking area easily.

As the wedding drew closer, I received a request to bring out the drone for some aerial photos. Shortly after the bride's dad gave her away, I landed the drone and relaxed for just a few minutes until the ceremony was completed. I then went back to the



RTV to start transporting guests back to their vehicles that were not staying for the reception. After a short while, I joined the rest of the guests at the reception for a good plate of BBQ and a Pepsi. As the crowd began to break up, we started transporting people back to their vehicles in the hay field until well after dark. After a successful event, on Monday morning, we finished the last of our coffee as the bride's family returned to start taking apart the wedding venue and transforming everything back to a farm.

As this narrative shows, it took a lot of forethought, planning, and

execution for the success of this wedding event, and I have only described my own role in this wedding. There were countless others involved as well including the bride, the groom, their families, rental companies for tables and chairs, my wife, her crew getting horses and carts cleaned and polished, and more. This wedding adventure is very similar to what we do each year with our health insurance program. There is a multitude of planning going on long before the Annual Enrollment Period from many different levels that are totally unseen by the consumer, just like the guests at the wedding did not

see the planning or work in process, but just see the end product.

As we look at the beginning of the Annual Enrollment Period where individuals can change their health insurance plans, keep in mind that a lot of planning has gone into the various changes and offerings for 2022. Since there are many changes occurring for the coming year, let one of our NC Grange Agents assist you in determining if you need a plan change and which plan best fits your current and anticipated future needs.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

by : LaRue Tart

CHANGE

Hey ya'll! It's finally Fall. There is change all around. The season is changing from hot and humid, short sleeves and shorts, to cooler breezes, light jackets in the evening, and colorful leaves. Nice. It's also time for football games, fairs galore, festivals, harvest time, pumpkins, sweet potato pies and collards and cornbread...YUM!

Change is inevitable in our lives. It's expected in many ways, and unexpected in some, like our health and bodies as we age for example. I tell my husband, John, that I still have my hourglass figure like when I was young; it's just that now the sand has shifted...LOL. And all those aches and pains in places I don't recall before are just a good reminder that I'm still kicking, just not as high!

There are many other changes happening in this world that are unpredictable and scary, like the Covid pandemic, the economy, jobs, wars and more. Some things we can control and others we just have to use our mustard seed of faith over fear and fully rely on God, our way maker. In Proverbs 3:5-6, it says to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not upon your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

When times of tragedies, disasters, and deaths of loved ones hit, our lives are changed in an instant. I have friends who have lost family members in this pandemic, and I have two best friends whose husbands recently passed away unexpectedly from other unrelated health issues. They all have told me, "He/she was my world. I am lost. Everything has changed." As friends, we try to love them and console them, but until you've been there, only the Lord can provide that love and presence they need to see them through this change in their life's journey. This reminds me of a song

I sing: "Great is thy faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

I also see changes in the elements of nature with earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, fires, and more, in our own nation and around the world. These events have turned people's lives upside down in just a moment's time. I know all too well this feeling after my own family experienced a devastating fire seven years ago after a bad snowstorm. Our home and most of our possessions, including irreplaceable pictures of family members and my precious wedding gown, were gone. My heart broke as I watched everything go up in flames as I stood there in the cold freezing weather. Change. But the Lord Jehovah Jireh was preparing me for a better blessing. "I the Lord do not change." Malachi 3:6.

I recently read a quote by Billy Graham, "God never takes away something from your life without replacing it with something better." Incredible to think about. As we walk together through unexplored territory, we're tempted to lean on the familiar pathways that offer access to an easier, more predictable way of living. But the Lord is asking us to stay the course and continue to walk beside Him. The road will not always be comfortable, and at times it might even feel risky. But remember who is right beside you; "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you. I am always with you." Hebrews 13:5.

Hold His hand, and trust Him to lead you through the changes in your life with His unfailing love. After all, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8. Change for the better is coming soon. Amen.



A 2021-23 budget agreement between the North Carolina House and Senate has finally come to a consensus. The agreed upon budget has been sent to Gov. Cooper for his review. Hopefully Speaker Moore and Senate President Pro Tem Berger can sit down with the Governor and work out “sticking points” and avoid a possible veto. It has been a very long, “long session” beginning in January and stretching into the fall. This session has been delayed and prolonged for many reasons including Covid-19 complications that involved virtual committee meetings, masked members, lobbyists and staffers not to mention the crisis that occurred with North Carolinians all across the state as a result of sickness, death, lost jobs, business closures, etc. The impasse between the NC House and Senate further delayed budget agreements.

The NC Grange has been involved in different aspects of the budget this year. The following appropriations have been included in the Senate and House budget. Hopefully they will be included in the final budget as well.

- NCA&T University Ag Research & Cooperative Extension
\$3,000,000
- NC A&T University Doctoral Program
\$7,500,000
- NC FFA Center at White Lake
\$1,500,000
- NC 4-H Centers & Camps
\$750,000 distributed to Betsy-Jeff Penn Center-
Rockingham County
\$600,000 distributed to the Eastern 4-H Center-
Tyrrell County
\$350,000 distributed to the Millstone 4-H Camp in
Richmond County

The Grange also lobbied and advocated for HB 500, The Flood Mitigation Bill, was referred to Appropriations. We were pleased to see that \$25,000,000 was appropriated for this in the budget draft.

The Grange sent a letter to Appropriations Chairs voicing concern on legislation that has awarded approximately \$142 million dollars to provide broadband services in the state. The company involved will use poles owned by not-for-profit electric cooperatives and municipalities to build the infrastructure. In effect, they have waged war against these cooperatives stating that the costs for attaching to power poles are excessive. Not only is legislation being sought, but a public relations campaign has also been hired to criticize the electric cooperatives in the state. Furthermore, this large company is also a competitor because many of the co-ops provide internet services.

A letter was sent to the House Full Appropriation Chairs on behalf of the NC Grange bringing to their attention a section in the House Budget which moves the Smithfield Agreement funds established in 2006 and transfers them to public schools. The NC Grange has been a longtime partner with the NC Soil & Water Foundation. The funding that Smithfield Foods has provided to this Foundation has enabled them to decommission hog lagoons across North Carolina. This is just one example of how beneficial this funding has been to North Carolina. These funds over the years have been used for its intended use and has assisted agriculture and land trust conservation groups across North Carolina such as the NC Coastal Land Trust, the Tar River Land Conservancy, and the Conservation Trust for NC. We asked that the Senate and the House conferees remove the language from the House budget and leave it as it is complying with its original purpose and the ruling of the NC Supreme Court.

Redistricting hearings are in process across North Carolina. Every ten years, legislative and congressional districts are redrawn. The last redistricting process occurred in 2011. It is a tedious, time and labor intensive process and typically involves political controversy no matter what party is in the majority. The previous redrawing of district maps involved lawsuits that have still not been settled. Covid has caused tremendous delays this year in gathering the census figures. This critical data provides demographic information on population change, race, ethnicity, voting age population and housing occupancy status. This year, legislators will be adding another Congressional District thanks to our growing population making it the 14th Congressional District in North Carolina. The ultimate goal in redistricting is to make certain that voting power and representation in the redrawn districts are distributed equally. *(From the NC State Board of Elections)*

The NC Grange had a wonderful convention this year in September. After two years, it was great to be with many of our Grange members again. The year, we had two resolutions submitted that supported requiring a photo ID to vote. There has been tremendous controversy in North Carolina around requiring a Photo ID as most of us are aware. Before, Grange policy did not include a requirement to provide a photo ID to vote - just an ID. We had quite a lively discussion on this during the virtual committee meeting, and again when the resolution was before the membership for a vote. The two resolutions were combined and amended in committee and passed with the following language which will be added to the Grange Law section of the 2022 Policy Book.

WHEREAS, our State Grange policy reads as follows, *“Persons voting in local, state and federal elections must have proof of identity which can identify them as eligible to*



vote. We encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote," which does not include a Photo ID; therefore be it RESOLVED, that the Photo ID requirement to vote be added to our State Grange Policy.

Coincidentally, a ruling came down in North Carolina on September 19 regarding a current lawsuit with the photo ID law being struck down as unconstitutional and racially discriminating against black voters. Afterwards, Republican legislators promised to appeal the decision. This, however, is just one of three lawsuits that has challenged the 2013 photo ID law. Simply put, the photo ID bill passed in 2013 was struck down as unconstitutional by a federal appeals court sitting

it racially discriminating with the intent to "target African Americans." Presently in North Carolina, we have two sections of the voter/photo ID law. First, there is the law, and second is the constitutional amendment. Unfortunately, with both facets are facing legal challenges, the fight is far from over. (*The Raleigh News & Observer*)

Hopefully, we will have good news to report on a finalized budget soon. Stay tuned to *Capitol Connect* which is emailed to our members weekly for current updates.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

by: Sharon Underwood



I want to give a big thank you and a pat on the back to all members and local Granges who contributed to the NC Grange's 2020 - 2021 State Community Service Project, Baby Bundles. We had a beautiful display of all the items donated at the State Convention in September. Seeing all your gifts made me so proud to be associated with such a generous group! A total of \$1,100 and over 500 baby items were donated, which are listed. We also received a special note from Paula Foust of Baby Bundles that I wanted to share.

It was great getting to see so many of you at State Convention. While there, several of you wrote suggested ideas on the display board for our 2022 service project. If you think of others, please email them to me by the first of November. The Grange staff and I will put our heads together and will share the final decision of our next service project early next year. Again, thank you for supporting this year's project.

*Dear NC Grange,
Thank you so much for the donation for Baby Bundles. I was overjoyed to see everything that the chapters gathered*

and donated. The items have already been put in the bundles that will be given out in October. I thank you and the mothers and babies we serve. Thank You!

Here is the list of what you all donated –

- 45 Outfits*
- 65 Onesies*
- 65 pairs of PJ's*
- 28 Children's Books*
- 36 Developmental Toys*
- 23 Receiving Blankets*
- 47 Heavy Blankets*
- 47 Bibs*
- 105 Pairs of Baby Socks*
- 19 Baby Hats*
- 5 Burp Cloths*
- 8 Packs of Baby Wipes*
- 12 Packs of Diapers*
- 1 Pair Of Baby Mittens*
- 2 Bottles of Pedialyte*
- Plus a \$1,100.00 donation*

Wow! That's over 500 items and money to support the organization. I wish we could do it again.

Thank you for including Baby Bundles in your charitable giving. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Paula Foust
Executive Director, Baby Bundles





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ncgrange.com

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR
Hot Dog
& BRUNSWICK STEW
FUNDRAISER

CORRIHER GRANGE HALL
1585 Corriher Grange Road, Mooresville NC

Saturday **6** **NOVEMBER**
11 AM - 2 PM
ALL YOU CAN EAT

FUNDS BEING RAISED FOR A NEW ROOF !

upcoming events ?

The NC Grange staff is always happy to assist with any of your local Grange events!

We can set up information tables, give out freebies, help with special awards presentations, or even speak. Please contact the State Grange Office and let us know how we can help.