

The official publication of the NC Grange

July August 2024

GRANGE NEWS

**2024
GRANGE
CAMP**



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ON THE COVER

Gail Reyburn climbs the cargo net up to the high ropes course at the Eastern 4-H Center.

STATE OFFICERS

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Chaplain	LaRue Tart
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Secretary	Barden Culbreth
Greeter	Vacant
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Sharon Ritchie
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Admin /Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Anna Liles
Events/Publications Director	Jessica Horton
Agriculture Programs	Dewitt Hardee
Coordinator	

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 19-22

State Convention | Durham, NC

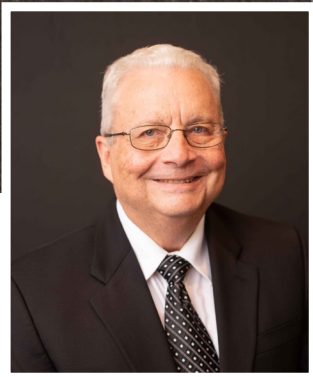
November 12-16

National Convention | Bettendorf, IA

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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FROM JIMMY

I have been going through the renewal scholarships, preparing them for the committee to review. It is always interesting to see the comments they write in response to three questions that are asked about their Grange experience. In this column, I am going to share some of their responses. Remember, these are students who are already in college.

“Grange had such an impactful influence on my formative years; it is a place full of people who have great values and abounding kindness.”

“I think the biggest way the Grange has helped prepare me for my future has been teaching me how to network and speak with a variety of different people.”

“Grange gave me not only practical leadership skills, but also role models to see how these skills could be used in real-life situations.”

“The most important lesson that allowed me to flourish in my college career thus far has been my ability to talk, relate, and work with people who are vastly different from me.”

“Leadership skills with interpersonal skills learned through the Grange will be extremely helpful in the financial sector.”

“Being ethics focused will be extremely relevant to my future career, as well as having a ground level community focus, which is ever more important in a world that is constantly evolving away from tight-knit communities.”

“The Grange has been one of the sole contributors to my development as a leader.”

“I hope to work for an agricultural company so I can continue to show those values of leadership, community service, and connection that we hold so dearly.”

My hope is that we are constantly making a positive difference in the lives of our members. These statements from our college-aged students are evidence that we are doing something right. Watching these young people grow, get educated, find employment, and become leaders in the communities where they land is a great goal of the Grange.



Welcome to our newest
Grange members! We are
delighted to have you join us.

Brogden Grange:

Kristen Beaman
Bradley Bradshaw
Heather Bradshaw
Sandra Howell

St. John's Grange:

Angie Hahn
Jason Hahn
Brandi Hagler
Jonathan Hagler
Kara Lentz

Mingo Grange:

Jamie Ennie

Grantham Grange:

Sharon Lee
Garrett Hood
Hannah Hood
JoAnn Whitfield
Lynn Hill

Chad Davis

Leigh Davis

Ferguson Grange:

Margo Foster
Garrett Mitchell
Anne Mitchell
Kendall Mitchell

FERGUSON GRANGE by : Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange was recently recognized at the Wilkes County Commissioners Meeting for being organized for 92 years. Commissioner Casey Joe Jones also attended our Grange's anniversary celebration in May. Ferguson Grange President Mike Brown shared the focus of the organization which supports agriculture, education, legislation, community service, and faith.

Left to right : Keith Elmore, Shirley Randleman, Casey Joe Johnson, Allan Freeman, Clarkie Brown, Brian DeCann, Pam McCarrick, RG Minton, Bill Sexton, Greg Minton, and Mike Brown.



Ferguson Grange also celebrated the end of the school year for Boomer Ferguson Elementary by holding an annual ice cream social for school staff. They enjoyed refreshments, door prizes, fellowship and laughter! Pictured are some of the Grange members that helped to serve ice cream: Cyndee VanSweden, Pam McCarrick, Clarkie Brown, and Allan Freeman who served as leader of the ice cream team.



VILLEWORTH GRANGE by : Jessica Horton

VilleWorth Grange in Huntersville, North Carolina, continues with their garden efforts. Despite deer pressure, the crops seem to be producing well. Flowers line the center row, making it a cheeful place to visit. A makeshift fence from t-posts and twine was secured after many plants were nibbled. The first donation of goodies has been given to be distributed at Lydia's Loft in downtown Huntersville.



BRITTON'S NECK GRANGE

by : Jean Pace

First and foremost, our Grange would like to thank the North Carolina Grange for allowing us to be part of your organization. Britton's Neck Grange is a small Grange in rural Marion County, South Carolina. We are the only active Grange left in the state.

We want to take this opportunity to share with our North Carolina members some of the projects in which we have participated. Our Pomona Grange has a building on the local fair grounds. We lease this building to "Bomb House Athletics." They have converted the building into a place for local youth to use as an indoor baseball practice facility. It is a great asset to our county.

Recently, someone made three afghans and gave them to our Grange to use as we see fit. We selected three ladies with ties to our community. One of our ladies was 105 years old. Unfortunately, she passed away the week after receiving her afghan and goody bag.

Other projects we have participated in include collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and distributing cases of water to our local volunteer fire department. One of our members helped serve food for "Cooks for Christ," and another member does a monthly jail ministry at the Marion County Detention Center.

Finally, we have made donations to various causes where we have seen or heard that there was a need. We contributed to a community block party where the gospel was presented several times and contributed to a missionary trip Papua New Guinea. We also helped a man in the community that suffered from a fall, and last but not least, we made a donation to assist with sending a youth to Grange Camp.

Britton's Neck Grange is constantly looking for opportunities to serve our community. We welcome you to visit and fellowship with our Grange if you are ever in the area.





LEARNING TO LIVE OUT LOUD!



If you were to ask any Grange youth what their favorite part of summer is, nearly all of them would say, “Grange Camp!” And if you were to attend Grange Camp, you would see the bonds of friendship that are formed among our campers and why this week is the highlight of their summer. Our 78th year of camp was held July 7-13 at the beautiful Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia, NC, which sits beside the scenic Albemarle Sound. It was an amazing week together where campers learned about leadership, team building, and the Grange through fun, exciting activities. This truly was a tremendous week of personal growth for our campers!

“Live Out Loud” was this year’s camp theme, created by our Youth Leadership Team. This theme encouraged campers to live their lives big, full of happiness and joy, living in the moment to enjoy all that life has to offer. The team used song lyrics and quotes from music artists to teach this positive message daily, inspiring campers to enjoy every moment of not just Grange Camp, but their lives.

Throughout the week, campers enjoyed a variety of daily activities such as kayaking, group games, ropes courses, giant swing, gaga ball, 9-Square, crabbing, wall climbing, swimming, archery, team building, leadership, and more. They also participated in a

service project by making Christmas ornaments out of recycled bottle caps for nursing home residents. Those will be packaged and delivered this fall at our annual convention.

The week included the traditional “Battle By the Bay” competitions in which groups competed in a wide variety of

activities with one group emerging as the week’s champions. Some of those activities included Family Feud, Music Trivia, 9-Square, Gaga Ball, Archery, Wall Climbing, skit performances and more. The winning team for youth this year was group Hope, led by counselors Montana Riley and Jason Cameron, and by Youth Team members Jaiden McDougald and Karly Denning. The Blue Group led by counselors Sadora Hayes, Charles Howerton and Rylee Grissom, and Junior

Team member Raegan Hartsell, was named the Junior champions. The winning team members received the coveted championship t-shirt, which was designed with cassette tapes labeled with song titles about winning.

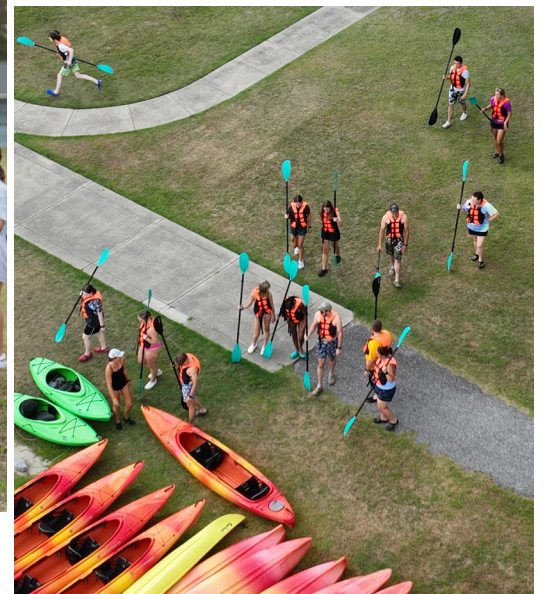
After daily activities, campers joined each evening for camp’s traditional events. Sunday night brought fun get-acquainted games led by the Youth Team. Monday night held our famous Great Grange Challenge where campers raced in a round of messy





team building activities on the sports field. Imagine jumping in a pool of slime; getting water dumped on you during relays; playing water balloon volleyball; spitting watermelon seeds onto a target; and throwing cheeseballs to stick on someone's head covered in shaving cream. You can see why this is a long-time favorite activity for our campers!

On Tuesday night, campers enjoyed the annual Talent Show and music-themed costume night. The evening was emceed by the Youth Team who opened the show with a skit, dressed up in gold shirts and performing as State President Jimmy



Gentry's old band in his teenage years, The Rolling Tones. It was quite a surprise for Mr. Gentry! Stand-out costumes of the evening included Michael Jackson, Sia, Taylor Swift, Pitbull, a unique rap duo called "The Candy Wrappers," and guitarist Slash. The Junior Team made a statement by dressing up as the band Kiss. More fun was had the next evening at our traditional Skit Night when each group performed hilarious skits. It is always amazing to see how much our campers get into their skits and perform them so confidently.

Thursday night, campers demonstrated their leadership skills at Model Grange Night. State Youth Officers performed their duties by opening and closing the Grange meeting in ritual form. Our State Youth President, Karly Denning of Grantham Grange, led the youth officers in the Grange opening with Nick Cameron and Kayla Laws leading the drill as the Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward. The Junior Officers also performed the Junior Opening and Closing of the Grange led by State Junior President Lacie

Liles. The Junior Officer Drill was led by Raegan Hartsell and Jack Spratling. All of our officers truly demonstrated incredible leadership skills. Two special guests were also presented during the ceremonies: Asheton Medlin, National Grange Youth Ambassador from NC, and Gayle Reyburn, the National Grange Junior Ambassador from PA. They spoke about the impact that Grange can make on young people's lives and how grateful they are for the opportunity to represent the National Grange this year. The evening also included square dancing, a long-time tradition at camp!

Our Awards Ceremony on Friday evening is also a tradition of Grange Camp. This is the night we honor our campers with awards and celebrate the week. Each Junior Camper receives a trophy representing a superlative chosen by their group counselors. Counselors also selected special awards

that will be presented at September's State Convention. The Junior Counselors Award was given to Noah Mackie and Nevaeh Comer. The Junior Director's Award was presented to Garrison Hall and Sarah Anderson. The Junior Grange Leadership Award was given to sisters Brooklyn and Ahnika Blake, and the highest honor, the Hunt Best All Around Camper Award, was presented to Raegan Hartsell and Laci Liles. Levi Liles and Raegan Hartsell were crowned this year's Junior Camp Prince and Princess.

Youth Awards were also presented, starting with superlatives which were selected by their peers. Jaiden McDougald and Karly Denning were crowned this year's Grange Camp King and Queen. (The full list of youth superlatives is included with this article.) Counselors also selected special youth awards that will be presented at the State Convention this fall. The Counselors' Award was given to Brayden Eudy and Peyton Musser, and the State Youth Director's Award went to Carter Settle and Karly Denning. The Grange Leadership Award was given to Nick Cameron and Taylor Rogers while the highest honor, the President's Best Camper Award, was presented to Jaiden McDougald and Kayla Laws. The evening ended with dancing, a special candlelight ceremony, and a slideshow of the week full of pictures taken by Jessica Horton. It was a very special night to end our incredible week together.

The week could not have been made possible without the excellent leadership and creativity of our 2024 Youth Leadership Team, who helped plan the camp activities and theme. Made up of

Caroline Barber, Karly Denning, Kayla Laws, Jaiden McDougald, Tayor Rogers, and Carter Settle, this team truly stood out as outstanding, charismatic leaders who made a strong, lasting impact on our campers.

The team also assisted this year's Junior Leadership Team who helped lead camp activities such as vespers, flag raising and mealtime songs. They cheered on their teams during every challenge, encouraged their peers and supported their counselors. The Junior Team this year was made up of Raegan Hartsell, Laci Liles, Noah Mackie, Vivian Nappier, Sloan Walker, and Anya Willis. These young leaders did such an amazing job.

Our incredible Grange Counselors also work very hard and attribute to the week's success. We thank them for volunteering their time to help make a difference in our campers' lives. Without their nurturing, loving hearts, camp would not be the amazing camp that it is. Special thanks are also given to all our local Granges and individuals who helped sponsor and pay for campers to attend this inspirational week.

Grange Camp is such a unique, life-changing experience for campers whose lives are positively impacted in so many special ways. Campers develop very close friendships, with many referring to those friends as their "second family." Camp gives kids a place where they gain confidence, break out of their shells, build relationships and work together. Most importantly, it is a place where campers can completely be themselves and learn how to live



King:

Jaiden McDougald

Queen:

Karly Denning

Best All Around:

Taylor Rogers & Carter Settle

Best Role Model:

Caroline Barber & Harvey Reyburn

Grange Spirit Award:

Sadie Johnson & Cade Howerton

Mr. & Miss Congeniality:

Peyton Musser & Brayden Eudy

Best Personality:

Anna Hahn & Zeke Simmons

Unsung Hero:

Gayle Reyburn & Logan Shay

Most Outstanding Leader:

Kayla Laws & Clayton Cameron

Most Unforgettable:

Savanna Hopkins & Lukas Shay

Most Fun to Be Around:

Zoe Riddering & Nick Cameron

Best 1st Year Camper:

Alysa Crayton & Gavin Hall

President's Best Camper Award:

Kayla Laws & Jaiden McDougald

Grange Leadership Award:

Taylor Rogers & Nick Cameron

Counselors Award:

Peyton Musser & Brayden Eudy

Youth Director's Award:

Karly Denning & Carter Settle







Another wonderful week of Grange Camp is in the books! We had a total of 43 Juniors that participated in this amazing week full of fun. They made new friends, reconnected with old friends, learned team building skills, cheered their teammates on while climbing the wall, enjoyed kayaking, played gaga ball and 9-square, and went crabbing on the bay. The list is endless, but the memories they made at Grange Camp will last a lifetime.

We continued the tradition of Battle by the Bay. Teams competed in the Great Grange Challenge on Monday evening; performed a short skit for the annual Skit Night; climbed the wall in the fastest time; played kickball; participated in a trivia Kahoot; and even competed for best bunk. The four Junior groups each worked together as a team to be named as the champions at the end of the week. This year, the Blue Group was named the winners. Junior Counselor Charles Howerton is undefeated as he took home, once again, the BBB Belt!

We had six amazing Junior Leadership Team members this year: Raegan Hartsell, Laci Liles, Noah Mackie, Vivian Nappier, Sloan Walker, and Anya Willis. These young leaders helped lead their groups during the day, were helpful leaders in their cabins, gave positive morning quotes during flag raising, and ended the day by presenting a vesper. They even dressed up as the band KISS together for costume night. They did a wonderful job leading and helped the Juniors have a fun week.

During Model Grange, Raegan Hartsell, Lady Assistant Steward, and Jack Spratling, Assistant Steward, lead our officers in an outstanding drill. This year's Junior Grange Officers are

President, Laci Liles; Vice President, Noah Mackie; Chaplain, Vivian Nappier; Program Director, Sloan Walker; Steward, Anya Willis; Secretary, Kinsley Eudy; Treasurer, Levi Liles; Gatekeeper, Ahnika Blake; Ceres, Brooklyn Blake; Pomona, Sarah Anderson; Flora, Wiley Wilson; Executive Committee members Neveah Comer, Alaska Stone, Sawyer Randall, Paisley Walters, and Olivia Welborn. Laci did a great job leading the Junior Officers as President. Maddi Hagler and Leyna Simmons led the Junior Drill Team this year doing a fantastic job. Thank you to counselor Lisa Anderson for working so hard on both these marches.

Each year, our counselors select some of our top juniors for several special awards. This year, our top honor, the Hunt Best Camper Award, went to Raegan Hartsell and Laci Liles. The Leadership Award went to two outstanding leaders, Ahnika Blake and Brooklyn Blake. The Counselor's Award was given to Neveah Comer and Noah Mackie, and the Junior Director Award went to Sarah Anderson and Garrison Hall. These Juniors will receive their awards at the State Convention in September. Raegan Hartsell and Levi Liles were also named our Junior Prince and Princess.

A huge thank you goes to all the amazing counselors who volunteered their time to come and help. They did an incredible job! We all had a wonderful week with this amazing group of enthusiastic Juniors. I am already looking forward to Grange Camp 2025!





North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day Celebrate with Us!

by : Laurie Barnhart

The Inaugural North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day (NC FAD), to be held November 14, is fast approaching! NC Grange, the lead organization of this annual celebration, is excited to host this event in collaboration and support of many NC commodities, the NC Department of Agriculture, and the NC Farm Bureau. Everyone has been 100% supportive of this effort, and the Grange is proud to be spearheading this campaign.

A designated date to show appreciation to all North Carolina farmers was introduced at the beginning of the 2023 NC Legislative Long Session. A Grange resolution passed by Grantham Grange, and then passed by the NC Grange membership at the annual convention, was the impetus. After discussions with the Agriculture Committee Leadership at the General Assembly, Rep. Jimmy Dixon of Duplin County was happy to craft a bill to recognize a North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day. With the passing of the bill, the second Thursday in November was set aside as a day of appreciation and recognition for all NC farmers and farm families.

In anticipation of Farmers Appreciation Day, the NC Grange along with our partners' support has rolled out a social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We strongly urge all our Grange members to follow the posts. In addition, you can visit the website ncfarmerappreciation.com for more information on the event including updates, the 2024 Farmer and Young Farmer of the Year applications, as well as beautiful photography and posts from NC farm families.

As part of the publicity campaign, the planning committee is also working with CBS17 reporter Emily Wagner to produce four pieces about the event on her show "On Carolina Soil." Emily is the star of these two-minute power segments focusing on NC farmers and the land and work they love. The stories will be posted on all social media channels and Direct TV. We recently spent a day with Emily as two episodes were filmed. The first was at Cantina 18, a thriving restaurant in the Village District in Raleigh. Emily spoke with proprietor and Chef Jason Smith about his restaurant and how he supports our state's agriculture industry by buying products from NC farmers and ranchers. Whether it's Lewis Farm Strawberries from Pender County or pork from Cheshire in Duplin County, you can always expect to see NC products on Cantina 18's menu!

The next stop while hopscotching around Raleigh was the NC Farmers Market. Using a little creativity and lots of enthusiasm, our NC FAD team created a tailgate feast featuring NC products. Most of the food and drink items were purchased, or made from items purchased, at the Farmers Market. The menu included deviled eggs, potato salad, a watermelon basket with chopped cantaloupe, grapes and honeydew, peanuts, sodas, pickles, peach and blueberry cobbler, and pimento cheese. On the grill we had wings, corn on the cob, burgers and link sausages. There were even fresh flowers from a flower farm in Iredell County. Emily, together with Ron Simmons from the NCDA, talked about grilling NC products. It was a fun and festive time. The best part was not only having a great tailgate with fabulous and healthy food but was supporting NC farmers





and families. The “On Carolina Soil” segments will be aired soon on Direct TV. We greatly appreciate NCDA’s John Hammond, Assistant Director of Multi-Media, and his staff for assisting us with this effort.

For a state that ranks 3rd in agriculture diversity and has an economic impact of over \$100 billion dollars annually, we feel strongly that NC farmers are deserving of a day set aside to honor them for all they do to provide food and fiber to all of us. They help make North Carolina the great state that it is. Nobody does agriculture with such compassion and collaboration as North Carolina. We have so much to be proud of. Please support all of our NC farmers and farm families on November 14 from “Mountains to Sea.” They deserve it!



Make Your Tailgate NC

Below is one of the delicious recipes featured in the NC Farmer's Market segment of CBS17's "On Carolina Soil" with Emily Wagner which highlighted using NC products to host a great tailgate. This is one of four episodes to be filmed promoting the NC Farmers Appreciation Day and supporting our state's farmers. All recipes for the episode used NC products.

4 Large Peaches Sliced

1 Pint Fresh Blueberries

Topping

150 Grams Almond Flour (about 1.5 cups)

1 Cup Chopped Pecans

1/4 Teaspoon Sea Salt

1/4 Cup Coconut Oil Melted

1/4 Cup Honey or Maple Syrup

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9-inch pie plate.

Layer the peaches and blueberries in the bottom of the pie plate.

Combine topping ingredients in a large mixing bowl then stir in the wet ingredients until crumbs form. Crumble the topping over the fruit in the pie plate.

Bake 45-50 minutes until fruit is bubbling and topping is golden brown. If topping browns too quickly, cover loosely with foil.



Youth Team Caravan: A Leadership Tradition

by : Jennie Gentry

Every summer, the State Youth Leadership Team participates in a week-long event called Caravan. The trip takes these young leaders to various places in the state where they engage in activities to promote the Grange's Youth Program. The week is also full of leadership training and growth.

The first ever Caravan was held in 1958. It was sparked by a youth resolution passed in 1957 to employ a Grange deputy to focus on adding leadership development and membership growth to the youth program. Deputies were members who helped start Granges across the state and the idea was to ignite growth in the youth program. One of our most successful deputies, Virgil Settle, took on the task. He created Caravan for which the top four State Youth Offices would make up a Youth Team that would visit a different Grange every night for a week to conduct youth rallies to promote the program as well as Grange Camp.

Caravan has greatly evolved since 1958. This year's trip, held June 19-27, kept the team in the Raleigh area where they engaged in leadership sessions to strengthen skills in public speaking, professionalism, leading activities, and talking to people about the Grange. They also filmed videos, developed a social media campaign, and created skits to emcee activities, all to make Grange Camp a success.

One highlight of the week was visiting City Farm in downtown Raleigh, which helps feed those in need. We joined Capitol Grange members for a tour of the farm with its beautiful flowers in bloom and watched as the beekeeper managed the hives, letting us taste honey right off the comb. We were present as a donation was made to the farm by Jimmy Gentry on behalf of the State Grange. We also attended a JoCo Grange meeting in Johnston County. We learned more about agriculture from a forestry presentation, and watched this new Grange in action as they discussed some amazing community service ideas. The team especially loved getting to meet new Grange members.

The last two days of Caravan were spent at the FFA State Convention where we set up a booth in the expo and spent long hours talking with students and teachers about the Grange. The team's enthusiasm drew many students to our table, and because of their efforts, three new campers attended Grange Camp this year. Before Caravan ended on June 27, the team attended the convention's morning session, which the Grange sponsored. They joined me on stage as I spoke about our support of FFA, then threw Grange t-shirts into the crowd, which has become an annual tradition. The team did a phenomenal job representing the Grange.

This year's team is made up of Caroline Barber, Karly Denning, Kayla Laws, Jaiden McDougald, Taylor Rogers, and Carter Settle. A lot has changed since 1958. The team is now selected through an interview process, and instead of attending youth rallies every night, they take part in other types of promotional activities. However, what remains the same is that Caravan continues to be an excellent tool for promoting our youth program and for building strong leaders in the Grange.



CAPITOL NEWS

by : Laurie Barnhart



As the November general election edges closer, political news is always heightened; however, this year has certainly been unprecedented. As I write this article, I am watching various news channels regarding the announcement that President Biden has withdrawn from his candidacy for reelection. Thus far, we have an attempted assassination of former President Trump resulting in the death of an innocent bystander caught in the crossfire; and we have a Presidential endorsement of Vice-President Harris by President Biden and her running mate choice of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Whatever happens, this year's election will certainly be one for the history books.

On June 28, the NC General Assembly did their usual scenario of "going home, but not really." There was a resolution to adjourn on June 28 and reconvene sporadically afterward. To simplify, the dates they are scheduled to reconvene are July 10, July 29, September 9, October 9, November 19 and December 11. The resolution specifies that when they adjourn on December 11, they will adjourn "sine die" meaning they will not be back in session until they gavel in the 2025 long session in January.

During the short session, eight bills were vetoed by the Governor. So far, the legislature has overridden three of the vetoes. One bill became law without the Governor's signature. Thirty bills became law during the session. This number does not include local bills or appointment bills which do not require action by Governor Cooper.

Although everyone was hopeful the General Assembly would pass a budget during the short session, it didn't happen. One of the objectives during a legislative short session is to make changes to the 2nd year of the 2-year budget that is done in the previous Long Session. The House and Senate budget writers worked for weeks to put together an agreed upon spending bill with those changes. Unfortunately, they hit

an impasse. On the very last day of short session after attempting to compromise, the House and Senate did adopt two bills in order to satisfy budget needs that were urgent. SB 332: 2023 Appropriations Act Changes provided funding for pay raises for teachers as well as other school personnel at child care centers. SB 357: Adjustments to the 2023 Appropriations Act allocated \$67.5 million in funding for child care centers,. The Opportunity Scholarship program was also funded which covers additional administrative cost for the Personal Education Student Accounts for the Children with Disabilities program. Both bills were passed by the House and signed by the Governor.

Currently, legislators who are running for office again as well as new candidates are gearing



up for the General Election in November. Raising money, which cannot be done while the legislature is in session, is key in many elections.

With every legislative long session, there are always new faces; however, there seem to be more retirements and resignations this year than usual. To date, the following are legislators that will not be seeking another term:

- Rosa Gill, D-Wake
- Terence Everitt, D-Wake (running for State Senate)
- Marvin Lucas, D-Cumberland
- Jon Hardister, R-Guilford (running for Labor Commissioner)
- John Faircloth, R-Guilford
- Wayne Sasser, R-Stanly
- Kristin Baker, R-Cabarrus
- Jeffrey Elmore, R-Wilkes
- Grey Mills, R-Iredell (running for U.S. House, District 10)
- John Bradford, R-Mecklenburg (running for U.S. House, District 8)
- John Autry, D-Mecklenburg
- Kelly Alexander, D-Mecklenburg
- House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland (running for U.S. House, District 14)
- Wesley Harris, D-Mecklenburg (running for State Treasurer)
- Caleb Rudow, D-Buncombe (running for U.S. House, District 11)
- Jason Saine, (R-Lincoln)

Senate incumbents not seeking another term:

- Jim Perry, R-Lenoir
- Mary Wills Bode, D-Wake
- Joyce Krawiec, R-Forsyth
- Natasha Marcus, D-Mecklenburg (running for Insurance Commissioner)
- Rachel Hunt, D-Mecklenburg (running for Lieutenant Governor)
- Dean Proctor, R-Catawba

As November 5 draws nearer, please check to see who is running for office in your district. It

is so important to be informed about who you are voting for when you go to the polls. You can always check the North Carolina General Assembly website at “Who to Vote for” and find exactly who is running for your district. I am always available to help you if needed. You can contact me at lbarnhart@ncgrange.com.



Be sure to check out The Grange Hall Podcast on Spotify, Apple Music, etc.

In Memoriam

<i>Charles Davis</i>	<i>Matrimony</i>
<i>Shirley Wilkerson</i>	<i>Schley</i>
<i>Ann Sullivan</i>	<i>Grantham</i>
<i>Anne Doub</i>	<i>Associate</i>
<i>Philip Duncan*</i>	<i>Corriher</i>
<i>Catherine Cheek</i>	<i>Schley</i>

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

Psalm 118:28
* 50 Year Member

RAIN

YES! RAIN, RAIN, RAIN!!! Our prayers have been answered. We finally got some rain for these drought areas. "God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!" God always knows when and how to answer our needs. The crops are already looking better and are getting ready for harvest soon.

However, there are different ways of looking at RAIN. When I was a young girl and wanted to play outside during the hot summer days, if I looked out the window and it was raining, I was so sad. I'd sing a little song, "Rain, Rain go away, come again another day." But then my mama would reassure me and say, "Just wait sweetheart and the sun will come out again soon. Be thankful for the rain, as the Lord knows best."

Sometimes we all must go through the RAIN of tears to see the sun. You've heard the old saying, "When it rains, it pours," meaning we may have one thing or another go wrong, or something breaks down, or health issues arise, among other things. But that's when we use our faith to persevere through and hope for the best.

In Genesis 6, not long after the creation of the world and man, the earth increased in number with marriages and children, and people began to sin more. The Lord God was displeased with the corrupt nature of man. He was grieved and His heart was filled with pain. "God decided to destroy both the earth and man. Flood waters of RAIN was coming. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

You remember this popular story of the precise building of the Ark, the bringing in of all the living creatures, male and female, two of every kind, and the large preparation of food and accommodations for Noah and his family and the animals. Whew – what a job!

But Noah did everything just as God commanded him, and RAIN fell on the earth forty days and forty nights, and the waters flooded the earth 150 days. "But God remembered Noah," states Genesis 8.1. Do we have that favor in the eyes of the Lord like Noah? When it rains in our lives, do we remember to do our part to seek the Lord first and do His work? God is faithful to us, so we must also be faithful to Him. Only then can we see the rainbow of His covenant and His promise to us of the hope of a better tomorrow and a better nation.

"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of man." (Matthew 24:37)

NC GRANGES RECEIVE GRANTS

by : Jimmy Gentry

Recently, the National Grange conducted a grant program called the Rural Life Initiative. This program resulted from a contribution from Pfizer. Seven State Granges were designated as pilot project states, and NC was one of those. An announcement was made about the project to our local Granges, and we had a great response. A total of \$48,000 will be dispersed to Granges in North Carolina as a result of the community project ideas that they submitted. Those Granges are as follows:

- Arcadia Grange: \$9,500.00 for an information tent at the Davidson County Fair, advertising at local athletic events, sponsoring a youth team, conducting a banquet, providing local workshops, and supporting local agencies.
- Brogden Grange: \$4,000.00 to host a Purple Heart Banquet for veterans.
- Capitol Grange: \$5,000.00 to conduct a cancer screening and health awareness event in partnership with the Carolina Cancer Foundation.
- Grantham Grange: \$2,000.00 for the food booth at the Wayne County Fair.
- JoCo Grange: \$14,500.00 to conduct a farm tour across NC and to conduct a Family & Community Day at the Johnston County livestock arena. This was the largest grant awarded to a local Grange out of all seven states.
- Mingo Grange: \$2,500.00 to conduct a project with the Mingo Senior Center.
- Old Richmond Grange: \$2,500.00 to conduct an event called Outreach Gardens which will teach using food as medicine and garden planning.
- NC State Grange: \$8,000.00 for the distribution of RLI materials at the State Fair and Southern Farm Show.

We congratulate each of these Granges on being grant recipients and thank you for not only participating in the program, but for coming up with exceptional ideas that will make big impacts in your communities. We look forward to seeing your projects in action.

I am extremely proud of our Granges for participating in this program. A lot of great ideas were generated that will be beneficial for communities around the state.



LANDING APPROACH

As a youngster, I was always fascinated with airplanes. In the 60's, a dirt airstrip was constructed on the adjoining farm to ours. It was used on the weekends for folks to go up and jump out of a perfectly good airplane. We spent many Saturday and Sunday afternoons watching for the crape paper streamers they threw out to determine the wind direction, followed by the parachutists.

I also remember making many model planes during my youth. My favorites were the P-51 Mustang and the F4 Corsair War Birds. I would attempt to make these models as realistic as possible. One feature that I would incorporate into my models was a rotating propeller. A soldering iron to flair the propellor shaft on the inside of the plane body helped to accomplish this trick. In the seventh grade, my planes became a display piece for my history class as we studied World War II.

As life moved on, our two sons, particularly our oldest, shared my interest in WW II Warbirds. Our

family visited several air shows where some of these birds were on display, some even flying. On one of our trips to Florida, we spent several hours at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum and visited the Valiant Air Command Warbird Air Museum. This museum had a mocked-up Aircraft Carrier Deck with several simulators stationed around the flight deck. You crawled into the simulator cockpit of either a Corsair or a Japanese Zero for a dogfight somewhere over the Pacific. The boys and Kathryn whooped up on me pretty badly that day, but it was a blast – no pun intended!

Shortly after that trip, the boys nudged me into the purchase of a computer game called Aces Over the

Pacific. The game lets you choose many different aircraft to fly as well as your settings such as land or sea. If you didn't get shot down, you had the challenge of landing your aircraft from the location where you started. My favorite aircraft in the game became the P38 Lightning. It was a tough plane that could take abuse and still fly. The dual fuselage and twin engine were said to have earned the nickname "Fork Tail Devil" by the German Luftwaffe pilots.

Our oldest son, Jonathan, followed his love of planes and is now serving in the US Air Force as well as having his own fleet of RC model planes, which mainly consist of various WW II Warbirds. While I have a couple of



RC's myself, I obtained my FAA 107 licenses, so my main mode of flight is one of the drones in the Davis squadron.

Frequently when Kathryn and I are outside, we watch aircraft flying by as our farm is located near an air vector (an airplane superhighway). We guess where that planes are heading and how high they are. One of our boys got me to download the phone app FlightAware so we could see information about the aircraft flying over us. In the late afternoons, we see a lot of planes coming out of Atlanta and heading overseas according to this app. There are also many planes flying from the north to southern destinations in Florida and beyond. We are also on the flight path for medical helicopters flying from Duke and Chapel Hill hospitals, some going to or from Winston Salem or our hospitals in the county. There are also student pilots flying from local Shilo Airport as well as Averett and Liberty University's aviation programs. Some planes come by so frequently that we

can recognize them just by the sound of their engines.

I recently spoke with an individual about their retirement transition plan and an airplane flight transition analogy came up in the form of a question. We know that the flight plan for any aircraft consists of three major phases: the take-off, leveling at a cruising altitude, and the landing. The question was, "When does a pilot start planning and preparing for the landing, and how far away from the airport does that occur?" The plan for landing starts even before the pilot enters the aircraft by knowing where they want to go, weather conditions, how much fuel it will take to get there with a safe fuel margin remaining, and alternative landing sites should they become necessary. These are just a few factors of the planning. The transition from cruising to descent and landing depends on the individual aircraft and the current conditions in flight. For example, a typical commercial airliner with a cruising altitude of 35,000 feet and

a normal decent angle of 3% will require the pilot to start that descent approximately 126 miles away from the airport. Case in point here, the descent starts before the pilot can visually see the airport.

Just like the pilots, we must start our life transition plan before we have the need in sight for a smooth landing. When I started my insurance career, my mentor often told me to discover your client's potential need for coverage before the actual need, otherwise once the "house is on fire," it is too late for them to get coverage. As we head into late summer and early fall, it is a great time to look at your potential needs and current coverages to make sure that you and your family have a smooth transition from cruising altitude to landing. Give one of our NC Grange Agents a call today, and we will be delighted to assist you in an insurance review and upgrade your current plan.



GRANGERS TRAVEL TO HERSHEY, PA

by : Jennie Gentry

NC Grange was well represented at this year's Eastern Regional Conference the last weekend of July. An enthusiastic group of our members traveled to Camp Valley, Pennsylvania, to fellowship with Grangers from other states and engage in an educational experience. With a mix of all ages, the conference did not disappoint and offered a wide variety of activities for everyone.

We traveled a day early, allowing us to visit the famous Hershey Park all day Friday before making it to the conference that evening. The park was amazing with so much to do and see, and we often found the aroma of chocolate tickling our noses. Part of our group enjoyed the day at the water park, going down waterslides and floating around the lazy river. I opted for a different experience with a thrill-seeking group of youth as we rode roller coasters all day. We may have screamed a lot, especially on the massive Wildcat's Revenge, but those coasters were amazing! After a day of rides, delicious food, and buying chocolate and souvenirs at the gift shops, we headed back to the hotel to begin mingling with Grange friends from states across the East Coast.

Saturday morning's agenda started with a tour of Hershey Gardens, a beautiful 23-acre garden overlooking the town of Hershey. Opening in 1937 by Milton Hershey, the gardens have grown to include an amazing assortment of flowers and shrubs

including a stunning collection of 3,000 roses representing 115 varieties. As you walk, the winding paths lead you through beautiful landscapes and popular themed areas such as the Japanese Garden, the Rock Garden, and even a garden created just to indulge your senses. The whimsical Children's Garden offers an amazing experience to spark imagination, and the Butterfly Atrium allows you personal interaction with varieties of butterflies from around the world. With bright blue skies, it was the perfect day to tour these breathtaking gardens.

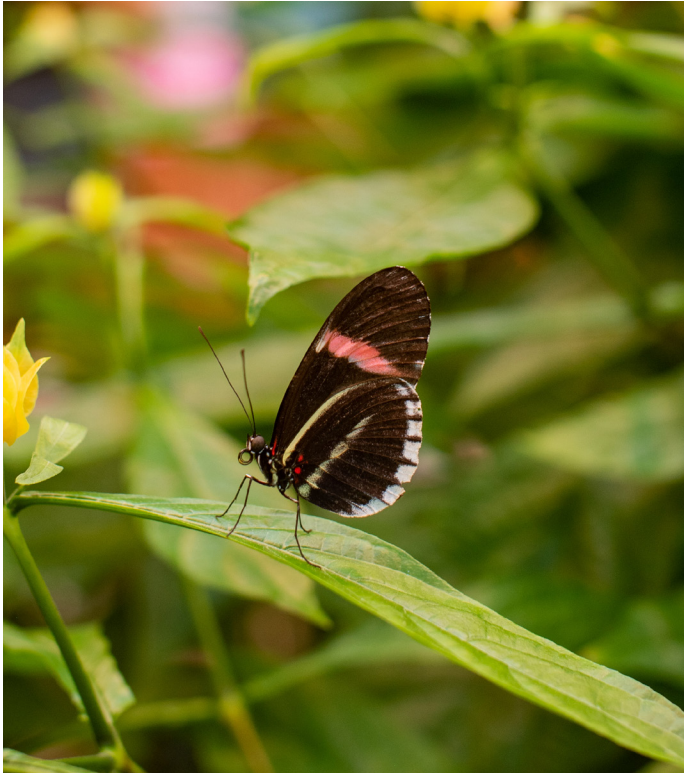
After the tour, we met at Valley Grange where the conference offered a variety of sessions divided into two tracks: the Youth & Juniors Track and the Leadership & Directors Track. A large portion of our group were youth and Juniors, so most of us joined that track. PA State Youth Directors Jenn Danko and Lindsay Schroeder led us through an escape room to learn teamwork. Phil Vonada, PA, taught us how to spice up a Grange meeting by using a wide array of materials to create short minute-to-win-it games. National Junior Ambassador Gayle Reyburn of PA led a fantastic workshop on corn with very interesting and fun facts and taught us how to make corn husk dolls, an art created by early Native Americans. We also enjoyed learning to communicate more effectively with teams in a workshop led by National Ambassador Team members Asheton Medlin and Ashley Holloman, both from NC.



Other workshop sessions included writing strong legislative resolutions, creating SMART Goals, and developing good programs for members to enjoy at Grange meetings.

While PA State Grange leaders organized and led a fantastic conference, the members of Valley Grange in Lewisberry, PA, spoiled us with a massive spread of tasty foods for lunch and dinner that came with delicious, homemade desserts. The whoopie pies were one of our absolute favorites! We ended Saturday with line dancing, square dancing, and enjoying time spent with our Grange friends.

As we departed in our large van on Sunday morning, embarking on our long drive back to NC, trying not to let John Hartsell's driving feel like being on a roller coaster again, we reflected on the weekend. We could not be more grateful to all of PA and their members for hosting such a fun-filled, wonderful event. It made us smile to think of the bonds we have with our Grange friends, not just in our own state, but those north of us.





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