

GRANGE NEWS

Grangers visit the
Western Region for the
156th National Convention



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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 10-12, 2023 Winter Youth Conference
Asheboro, North Carolina

March 16-19, 2023 Family Conference
Kitty Hawk, NC

July 9-13, 2023 Grange Camp
Columbia, NC

Cover Image by Jessica Horton of the youth
Grangers next to Lake Tahoe, California.

STATE OFFICERS

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	David Allen
Program Director	Bobbie Dellinger
Steward	Barden Culbreth
Assistant Steward	Wayne Stack
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	LaRue Tart
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Secretary	Barden Culbreth
Greeter	Mark Hood
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Lily Hayes
Flora	Janice Wilcox

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	Jimmy Martin
	Tom Cash
	Vinnie Duncan
	Melanie Hudson
	John Crawford
	Raymond Hayes, II
President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	David Allen
Secretary	Barden Culbreth
Treasurer	Julia Stack
<i>Emeritus</i>	Carlton Barefoot
	Charles Forrester

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Insurance Programs	Mark Davis
Membership Director	Katie Greene
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Anna Liles
Publications Director	Jessica Horton



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 | NATIONAL SESSION

The National Grange Convention is completed, and in this message, I will share some of the new policies passed during the session.

1. Support the enhancement of fertilizer production in the United States.
2. Continue support for Agricultural Education.
3. Support increased funding from Congress for Food Banks.
4. Support members of Congress placing personal investments in a blind trust while they are in office.
5. Eliminate medical debt from credit reports.
6. Require “so help me God” to be used in the swearing in ceremony for those who testify before Congress.
7. A North Carolina resolution was adopted which opposes the SEC involvement in climate change that could impact agriculture.
8. Support for the development of incentives to discourage the placing of solar farms on productive farmland.
9. Support for multi-cancer early detection.
10. Support dietary guidelines being based on sound science and including animal proteins in a balanced diet.
11. Support for transparency in hospital pricing.
12. Support for foreign baby formula meeting FDA guidelines.

The National Grange continues to advocate for agriculture, the health of our citizens, good citizenship as well as education.

There was another action that took place that concerns me greatly for this organization. The delegates from one state pushed for the approval of marijuana use in Grange halls within those states that have declared it legal. A study committee will be formed to examine marijuana inclusion within the organization. I adamantly oppose the approval of marijuana in this organization in any fashion, and I hope the study commission puts an end to this effort.

We had a good group totaling 29 people from North Carolina to attend the national convention. Some were in youth and junior activities, others in the talent show, sign-a-song, public speaking, and two Granges received Distinguished Grange Awards. Those two Granges were St. John’s and Grantham. I am always proud of our member’s involvement at the national convention which speaks well for our local Granges as well as the State Grange.



LaLue Woolard - Beaufort County Grange

Barbara Stephenson - Schley Grange

ASHETON MEDLIN NAMED YOUTH OF THE YEAR

BY: JENNIE GENTRY

It gives me so much joy to announce that Asheton Medlin was named the 2022 NC Grange Youth of the Year, a unanimous decision made by the State Youth Committee. She was surprised with the honor in front of family and friends at an awards luncheon at the State Grange Convention, and those in the Grange who know her can attest that she is well deserving of this distinction.



Asheton is the daughter of Scott and Debra Medlin of Roxboro, NC, and a member Bushy Fork Grange. I remember vividly when she attended Grange Camp for the first time. She was a precious 8-year-old with a huge personality, a sweet disposition, a constant smile on her face, an eagerness to volunteer for everything, and the inability to sit still. These are all traits she possesses to this day! When sharing the story of her first year at camp, she will tell you that after that week, she was absolutely hooked on the Grange. Since then, Asheton has grown up and evolved into an incredible leader in our organization. She is serving her second year on the State Youth Leadership Team, is the current State Youth Vice President, and served as this year's National Grange Youth Program Director. She has worked very hard the past few years to plan and lead activities for our youth program.

Asheton has also received several other awards in the Grange. Twice, she has received both the Grange Camp Best All Around Superlative and the President's Award, which is one of the highest honors a youth in our state can receive. She also received the 2021 National Grange Spirit Award and the 2022 National Grange Youth Community Service Award. This year, she competed in both public speaking and group sign-a-song and won first place and Best In Show at the state, regional and national competitions.

Although Asheton stands out as an excellent leader, her character, positive attitude, work ethic and willingness to serve are also what led the State Grange Youth Committee to select her as the recipient of this year's award. She truly does go out of her way to help others and to make sure all youth are involved and having fun. She keeps everyone laughing, shows endless enthusiasm for the Grange, and is always first to volunteer to serve or to lead an activity. Asheton is

also a great role model for others and is well-respected and loved by her peers. Those who work with her through the Grange have also been impressed by her compassion and her willingness to always go above and beyond what is asked of her.

Outside of the Grange, Asheton enjoys reading, painting, playing sports, walking her dog, and participating in service projects that benefit animals. She is a sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill where she is studying biology with plans to become a veterinarian. She is a member of the UNC Pre-Vet Club and the UNC Helping Paws Club and volunteers regularly at the local animal shelter. She is extremely passionate about working with animal rescue organizations and helping pets find good, loving homes.

From her many hours of hard work as a leader, her compassion for her fellow Grangers, and her love and enthusiasm for this organization, it is very evident why Asheton was selected as this year's Youth of the Year. In her words, "The Grange has given me so many opportunities that have helped shape me into the person I am today. It has led me to grow in my confidence, develop strong leadership skills, and gain lifelong friendships. I am so proud to be part of this amazing organization and what it represents...family." We congratulate Asheton Medlin on receiving this much deserved award.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

by : LaRue Tart

TIME

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

A time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This passage tells mankind that our whole lives are based on time. Timing is everything. "God created time just for us," states the late Rev. Richard Parson.



Sometimes it seems like it goes so fast, and other times so slowly. Time as we know it is based on seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, and years. At the time of this writing, this weekend is the change of time from daylight savings time to regular time, so time falls back one hour. It's my understanding that this time change was mainly created to help those who worked in the field or outside. There's a mystique about time and timing. When it's right, it's fabulous; when it's wrong, it's a disaster.

We speak of the right timing to get married, to start a business, to have children, to change jobs or careers, to risk a new adventure, even to take a vacation. Some are planned, others spontaneous. Either way, we know that the best time makes a difference. It affects our outlook and success, so sometimes we say, "It's not the right time yet," or perhaps, "It's time; let's do it."

Real time comes in many different ways: examples include setting the alarm clock to get up, work time, school, baking times, appointments, meetings, reservations, special occasions, entertainment, church services, events, playtime, games, bedtime, etc. Many of these include waiting time: doctor's office, lines for restrooms, traffic lights, airports, banks, having surgery, store checkouts, deliveries, mail, waiting for other people (like me...lol), and so forth. It can become overwhelming. Look at how much time we use every day for ourselves and others. This is where perseverance comes in handy. Oddly, we forget to give the same time and room for God.

Maybe it's because we know He's capable of doing anything, but we get impatient waiting for God. We might forget that He waits for right timing too. Sometimes His answer is Yes, sometimes No, but it's always on time. As the song says, "He's an online God, yes He is." We ask the Lord for different things in our prayers, and they will be answered, but only in His time, His way, His will. Hold on, be patient (Psalms 27:14). As a believer I feel that when we die, it was our time, according to the plan of God. It's hard to understand this, especially in the death of a child or loved one. But His ways are not our ways, and neither are His timetables our timetables. We must trust Him in all our ways. One day there will be no time; time will end as we know it. We need to spend time in reading His Word, take time to pray, say a timely word to someone in need (Proverbs 15:23). In Revelation 1:3, it says, "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

My cousin Brian Rogers, who is a pastor and special speaker on the Christian radio, has a saying that I remember distinctly, "Take time for God, because He always has time for you."

In Memoriam

Dewey Woolard

Beaufort County Grange

CYRUS HALL OF FAME CEREMONY HELD

BY: JIMMY GENTRY

On November 28, a ceremony was held at the Troxler Science Center in Raleigh to recognize the induction of John Cyrus and two others into the NC Agricultural Hall of Fame. After his retirement from the NC Department of Agriculture (NCDA) in 1986, Cyrus served as a lobbyist for the NC Grange. Most of his career was with the NCDA as a Tobacco Specialist serving as Chief of the Tobacco Marketing Section. During his tenure, Cyrus was instrumental in the development of new innovations for the marketing of tobacco. He earned numerous awards and served on a significant number of Boards. In addition to being a member of the Grange, he was also a 32nd Degree Mason.

Cyrus served as a member of the Tabernacle Baptist Church where he was a Deacon and Sunday School teacher. His wife Billie Marie was a great supporter of his career and well-respected among the people who know her. She and other family members attended the ceremony and was able to accept the award.

In addition to Cyrus, two other individuals were honored during the ceremony. Fred Colvard and Marshall Grant both had significant contributions to agriculture and were inducted into the Hall of Fame. The North Carolina State Grange and the NC Cotton Producer's Association sponsored the event.



The 2022 Elections are over and news is around leadership roles for the 2023 Legislative sessions for Congress and the NC General Assembly. In North Carolina 3,768,861 people turned out to vote either by early mail or in person on election day. This was a decrease by about 2% from 2018. Over 58% of those voting, voted either by absentee ballot or during early voting.

North Carolina Congressional Election Briefing

In the US Senate, NC Republican Ted Budd narrowly defeated Democrat Cheri Beasley by 132,420 votes. Senator-elect Budd, who is currently serving his third term in the US House of Representatives, will be replacing NC Sen. Richard Burr. The lineup for the US House of Representatives for NC are as follows:

- **DISTRICT 1:**
-Don Davis (D): 52.3% (New Member)
-Sandy Smith (R): 47.7%
- **DISTRICT 2:**
-Deborah Ross (D): 64.4% (Incumbent)
-Christine Villaverde (R): 35.6%
- **DISTRICT 3:**
-Greg Murphy (R) - --Greg Murphy (R): 67% (Incumbent)
-Barbara Gaskins (D): 33%
- **DISTRICT 4:**
-Valerie Foushee (D): 66.7% (New Member)
-Courtney Geels (R): 33.3%
- **DISTRICT 5:**
-Virginia Foxx (R): 63.3% (Incumbent)
-Kyle Parrish (D): 36.7%
- **DISTRICT 6:**
-Kathy Manning (D): 53.8% (Incumbent)
-Christian Castelli (R): 45.2%
-Thomas Watercott (L): 1.1%

- **DISTRICT 7:**
-David Rouzer (R): 57.9% (Incumbent)– 57.9%
-Charles Graham (D) – 42.1%
- **DISTRICT 8:**
-Dan Bishop (R): 70.1% (Incumbent)
-Scott Huffman (D): 29.9%
- **DISTRICT 9:**
-Richard Hudson (R): 56.7% (Incumbent)
-Ben Clark (D): 43.3%
- **DISTRICT 10:**
-Patrick McHenry (R): 72.7% (Incumbent)
-Pamela Genant (D): 27.1%
-Diana Jimison (I): 0.1%
- **DISTRICT 11:**
-Chuck Edwards (R): 53.8% (New Member)
-Jasmine Beach-Ferrara (D): 44.5%
-David Coatney (L): 1.7%
- **DISTRICT 12:**
-Tyler Lee (R)- 37.3%
- **DISTRICT 13:**
-Wiley Nickel (D): 51.3% (New Member)
-Bo Hines (R): 48.7%
- **DISTRICT 14:**
-Jeff Jackson (D): 57.7% (New Member)
-Pat Harrington (R): 42.3%

North Carolina General Assembly Election Briefing

In the final tally of the North Carolina Senate, there will be 30 Republicans and 20 Democrats serving the 2023-24 term. That is a net gain of two Republican seats and a net loss of two Democrat seats which will give the Republican members the needed 30 votes to reach veto override power. In the North Carolina House of Representatives, there will be 71 Republicans and 49 Democrats serving. That is a net gain of two Republican seats as it was in the House and a net lost of two Democrats as well. To have a veto override, the House must have 72 votes; however, just one vote from a more moderate Democrat would make that possible.

North Carolina House of Representatives

There are 12 new members in the NC House. They are as follows:

New House Members

- District 2 (Person, Durham) – Ray Jeffers (D)
- District 5 (Hertford) –Bill Ward (R)
- District 6 (Harnett)- Joe Pike (R)
- District 8 (Pitt) –Gloristine Brown (D)
- District 9 (Pitt) – Dr. Tim Reeder
- District 13 (Carteret, Craven)- Celeste Cairns (R)
- District 21 (Wake)- Ya Liu (D)
- District 24 (Nash, Wilson) – Ken Fontenot (R)
- District 25 (Nash)–Allen Chesser (R)
- District 32 (Vance, Granville) Frank Sossamon (R)
- District 34 (Wake) – Tim Longest (D)
- District 41 (Wake) – Maria Cervania (D)
- District 44 (Cumberland)- Charles Smith (D)
- District 45 (Cumberland) – Frances Jackson (D)
- District 47 (Robeson)- Jarrod Lowery (R)
- District 50 (Orange)–Renee Price (D)
- District 63 (Alamance) - Steven Ross (R)
- District 66 (Wake)- Sarah Crawford (D)
- District 70 (Randolph)- Brian Biggs (R)
- District 71 (Forsyth) – Kanika Brown (D)
- District 73 (Cabarrus) – Diamon Staton Williams (D)
- District 78 (Moore, Randolph)- Neal Jackson (R)
- District 83 (Cabarrus) – Kevin Crutchfield (R)
- District 103 (Mecklenburg) – Laura Budd
- District 112 (Mecklenburg) – Tricia Cotham (D)
- District 114 (Buncombe) –



- Eric Ager (D)
- District 115 (Buncombe) – Lindsey Prather (D)
- District 117 (Henderson) – Jennifer Capps Balkcom (R)

New Senate Members

- District 4 (Greene, Wayne, Wilson) – Buck Newton (R)
- District 5 (Edgecombe, Pitt) – Kandie Smith (D)
- District 10 (Johnston) – Benton Sawrey (R)
- District 13 (Wake) – Lisa Grafstein (D)
- District 16 (Wake) – Gale Adcock (D)
- District 18 (Wake) – Mary Wills Bode (D)
- District 19 (Cumberland) – Valerie Applewhite (D)
- District 36 (Alexander, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin) – Eddie Settle (R)
- District 43 (Gaston) – Brad Overcash (R)
- District 48 (Henderson, Polk, Rutherford) – Tim Moffitt (R)

North Carolina Judicial Elections

Republicans won both seats that

were up for election on the North Carolina Supreme Court, giving them a new 5-2 majority on the bench. Republicans already held the NC Court of Appeals and grew their lead on the court by two seats by winning all the seats up for grabs. The newly elected Justices and Judges are below:

Supreme Court

Republicans won both seats up for election on the North Carolina Supreme Court, giving them a new 5-2 majority on the bench.

- Richard Dietz (R) 1,955,887 (52.53%) Seat 3
- Trey Allen (R) 1,947,558 (52.34%) Seat 5

Court of Appeals

Republicans already lead the NC Court of Appeals and grew their lead on the court by two seats by winning all of the seats that were up for election.

- Julee Tate Flood (R) 1,946,750 (52.57%) Seat 8
- Donna Stroud (R) 2,018,357 (54.54%) Seat 9
- John M. Tyson (R) 1,957,383 (52.89%) Seat 10

- Michael J. Stading (R) 1,958,624 (53.00%) Seat 11

The North Carolina General Assembly 2023 Long Session begins on January 11 but only for swearing in. The legislature will return on January 25 to begin mapping out details for the long session. The upcoming priorities for this session will be the 2023 Budget. This year the House will begin this process. Medicaid Expansion which was hotly debated during the last legislation season will be taken more than likely early in the session. House Speaker Moore has said there is a possibility that the abortion access as well as voter ID will be taken up. The redistricting maps will also be redrawn. (Excerpts from McGuireWoods Consulting)

The US Congress will begin the new session at noon on January 3 as scheduled for each odd-numbered year following a general election, unless it designates a different day by law.

FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

LOCAL GRANGE NEWS



Ferguson Grange is very proud that two of our members were awarded Best in Show in the Grange's state arts and crafts contests this year. Brian Decann won in the art competition, and Margaret Carter Martine won in the craft competition.

At the November business meeting, Ferguson Grange discussed important business and upcoming events for 2022 and 2023.

As an annual holiday project for the seniors in our community, our Grange got an early start and made Christmas gifts for them. The gift is a card and a kitchen whisk filled with chocolate kisses with the saying, "We whisk you a Merry Kissmas-Christmas!"



AN AMAZING YEAR FOR CADE & RYLEIGH

BY: EMILY HARTSELL

Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell officially handed over their titles as National Junior Ambassadors during the National Convention in Nevada, but what an amazing year they had. They became “world travelers” this past year, meeting new people, making lasting friendships, growing as leaders, and making memories that will last a lifetime.

Much responsibility comes with the title of National Junior Ambassador. Cade started his year by traveling to Washington DC for the National Grange DC Experience. He participated in a variety of educational workshops including Post Office Virtual Tour, rural mental health, access to rural health care and rural education. Cade also attended a session on how to meet with a congressman that offered pointers such as having a firm handshake and making eye contact. He then met with a congressional aide while making legislative visits to his congressman. His trip also included a trolley tour of DC with stops at Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument, and many other memorials in the city.

In early June, we flew to Manhattan, Kansas for the Great Plains Regional Conference. Cade and Ryleigh presented two workshops, which they presented at all regional conferences this year: How Weather Affects Agriculture and The Branches of the United States Government. They participated in Grange Baseball, learned to sew quilt squares, visited the Flint Hills Discovery Center, and ended their trip with a game-themed costume dance party. However, how can you visit Kansas without actually getting to experience a true, live tornado? That’s exactly what happened! It definitely wasn’t like the Wizard of Oz, but it was definitely an experience we will never forget. Eastern Regional Conference was held the next weekend, June 17-19, in Washington DC. Grangers from Massachusetts to Florida attended the conference. The group from NC finally saw Ryleigh and Cade in action as they presented their workshops, led games, emceed the contests, and met many new people. During their free time, they enjoyed walking to the White House. Although they weren’t successful in meeting the President, they did get a secret service guy to wave back to them.

Cade and Ryleigh were invited to attend Pennsylvania’s Junior Summer Camp, so they packed their bags again for a full week of fun. The trip allowed them to experience firsthand how other states conduct their junior camps. They enjoyed a week of learning about the Grange, opening and closing the Grange, learning new camp songs, sitting by the campfire every night, helping to make snacks for the campers, making new friends, and so much more. If you were to ask them about their camp food, they would tell you it was amazing, better than any camp food they have ever had. They truly had a wonderful week at Pennsylvania’s summer camp.

In August, the pair traveled across the country to the beautiful state of Oregon to attend the Western Regional Conference. They took a day to tour sites in Oregon and see the west coast. They stopped at Sea Lions Cave to see sea lions up close, which was simply amazing. Ryleigh and Cade enjoyed seeing how different the ocean is in Oregon with its rocky coastline and freezing cold water, even in August. However, they discovered that there’s nothing like dipping your toes into the cold Pacific Ocean! While in Oregon, they met new friends from

California, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, and Montana. They also led workshops and assisted with the sign-a-song and public speaking contests. To say their summer was jammed packed is an understatement. In between their travels to all of these amazing places, they also attended North Carolina’s own Grange Camp where they enjoyed spending a week with their NC Grange friends.

As their year came to a close, both Cade and Ryleigh stood in front of the attendees at the Friday morning session of the 156th National Grange Convention and gave their giving their farewell speech. They spoke about their year, giving much thanks to the NC Grange, the National Grange, the Grange Foundation, and to their families. This has been a whirlwind of a year, but the growth, the confidence, the memories, and the friends they have made, has been worth it. Cade and Ryleigh started Grange Camp the same year as the two youngest campers. Throughout the years, watching them grow into such incredible leaders has been so rewarding. Both have stated that they couldn’t have done this without the other one. I have watched these two become confident leaders in our Junior program, and now I will stand aside and watch them continue to grow as amazing leaders in the youth program.



This letter was drafted by the American Soybean Association and sent to Congress expressing great concerns with recent misinterpretations of long-standing policy regarding the regulation and labeling of pesticide products, as some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NC State Grange signed in support of this letter as well as 331 other ag organizations across the country.



November 14, 2022

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell,

We write to express our great concern with recent misinterpretations of long-standing policy regarding the regulation and labeling of pesticide products, as some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lack of certainty on EPA-approved, science-based nationwide labels will erode access to current and future pesticides, threatening crops and grower incomes, conservation practices, public health, vital infrastructure, and ultimately raise food prices for families amidst record-high inflation. Growers and users need reaffirmation from Congress that states have every right to build on the federal government's baseline regulations but cannot directly contradict the scientific conclusions of the EPA.

The last several years have demonstrated how fragile our food production and infrastructure systems can be. Whether driven by war in Ukraine, extreme weather events, or COVID-19 disruptions, our economic wellbeing and access to a safe, affordable food supply relies on many factors. Pesticides are an essential tool for many growers and other users whose operations rely on them, and for consumers and our environment which benefit from their use. If left unchecked, some pests can inflict crop yield losses greater than 80 percent, destroy important infrastructure, harm public health through mosquito-borne disease or other outbreaks, among other harms. Additionally, pesticides are essential to maintaining and expanding vital conservation practices, such as cover crops or tillage reductions, which remove the equivalent of millions of cars from roadways annually, reduce soil erosion, and prevent nutrient loss to watersheds. Without access to safe, effective pesticides regulated with the best available science, food prices for American families will rise significantly and our ability to protect public health, infrastructure, and our environment will be greatly diminished.

Disturbingly, we are seeing in states an emerging threat that risks access to these essential tools on which farmers and other users rely. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the primary statute governing pesticides, places EPA in the authority to make foundational, science-based decisions on how pesticides can be labeled and used. States are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides under FIFRA but are preempted from requiring additional or different pesticide labels or packaging. Nevertheless, in recent years we have seen actions from states that directly and unjustifiably contradict EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety. These actions risk creating an unworkable, inconsistent patchwork of state or municipal pesticide labels that can quickly disrupt commerce and access to these much needed tools. As concerning, this threatens to jeopardize public confidence in EPA's authority and science-based regulation under FIFRA, as well as the continued availability of individual tools on which there are contradictory claims.

We urge Congress to seriously consider the far-reaching implications should this tension go unaddressed by federal policymakers. The ability of farmers, land managers, and other users to produce an abundant food, feed, and fiber supply, combat public health threats, implement important conservation practices, and maintain vital transportation and utility infrastructure will be significantly impaired. In turn, food prices will further increase for families; important infrastructure will fall into disrepair; our population will be increasingly vulnerable to vector-borne diseases; and our ability to combat climate change and other environmental challenges will be undermined. We strongly urge Congress to reaffirm that EPA is the primary, federal authority under FIFRA for making pesticide findings and decisions, and that states may regulate their use, but not impose additional labeling or packaging requirements. Congressional action on this important matter will ensure our nation's farmers and other users have reliable access to these vital tools in the years to come.

Sincerely,
NC Grange and 323 other organizations





GRANGERS TRAVEL TO NEVADA

2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION

BY: JENNIE GENTRY

The 156th National Grange Convention was held in Sparks, NV, just outside of Reno. This is the last event of the year that Grange members travel to, and our NC delegation represented us well. State Delegates and National Officers and staff arrived by Sunday, November 12, to begin business sessions, orientation, and committee meetings on Monday.

Committees continued their work Tuesday morning before attending the Advocacy Luncheon. Afterwards, the convention was officially opened, and National Grange President Betsy Huber gave her annual address. She highlighted the Grange's overall net gain in membership as well

as the legislative efforts the Grange has made this year. Such efforts included lobbying for the Cattle Contract Library Act, the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, postal service reform, and rural broadband. Delegates then continued their work to develop legislative policy. Nearly 100

resolutions were submitted by State Granges this year which were reviewed by eight committees.

Jimmy Gentry and David Allen served as our state's delegates. While they worked on business Tuesday, National Junior Ambassadors Ryleigh Hartsell and Cade Howerton arrived, chaperoned by their parents John and Emily Hartsell, and Charles Howerton. This group enjoyed time site seeing before the two young leaders started their week leading workshops and activities. Cole Settle also arrived early to prepare for his duties as National Youth Ambassador.

When Wednesday arrived, so did most of the convention's attendees, including youth. The evening session was full of excited members ready to stand and cheer for their states in the annual Roll Call of States. A special presentation was made inducting two past Grange members into the Grange Hall of Fame for their significant contributions. Inducted were Dudley W. Adams, the second National Grange President who helped the Grange grow significantly in the 1870s, and Mortimer Whitehead, National Grange Lecturer from 1877-1879 and 1886-1893, who wrote significant articles and pamphlets for the Grange and was a large influence on the Grange's fight for Rural Mail Delivery.

The Quilts of Valor presentation followed, led by National Grange Program Director Ann Bercher. Eleven veterans received their quilts, escorted to the front by youth then wrapped in their quilt with a loving embrace to honor them for their military



service. After the session adjourned, youth activities began with games led by the National Youth Team including Cole Settle of NC. The National Youth Officers also attended a meet-and-greet with the National Officers who offered wisdom and encouragement.

Thursday morning brought several youth workshops, three of which were led by Baylor Howerton, Matthew Settle, and Autumn Whitaker of NC. Charles Howerton spoke at the Past Delegates Luncheon on the impact Grange has on families, including his own. It was a touching message, especially since his kids Baylor and Cade were in attendance. The afternoon brought an important presentation by Jeff Winton, CEO of Rural Minds, an organization with a mission to be the informed voice for mental health in rural America and seeks to provide mental health information and resources. Winton expressed the importance of recognizing and treating mental health, especially in our rural areas where people often dismiss the idea of mental health issues and rarely ask for help.

The GROW Club banquet was held that evening where NC Youth Ambassadors Baylor Howerton and Matthew Settle, and NC Young Adult Patron Autumn Whitaker were inducted into this special club that includes a long list of past youth leaders. Youth and Juniors ended the evening with a pool party and group games. Convention goers attended Friday morning's session to watch the National Youth Officers perform their drills and open the session. Serving on the team were 5 youth from NC including Karly Denning, Flora; Samantha Hunnings, Pomona; Carson Lackey, Executive Committee; Asheton Medlin, Treasurer; and Carter Settle, Gatekeeper. This is always a highlight of the convention and these youth did a fantastic job. As part of the morning session,



Cole Settle, National Youth Ambassador, and the National Junior Ambassadors, Ryleigh Hartsell and Cade Howerton, gave their farewell speeches, wrapping up the incredible year they experienced. Settle's message inspired us; Howerton's message entertained us and made everyone laugh; and Hartsell's sweet speech moved us to tears. All three expressed their heartfelt gratitude to NC and the National Grange for the opportunity to lead and serve in such big ways this year.

Instead of a tour, attendees of all ages participated in "Experience Pass Activities." Participants engaged in activities to bring a part of the surrounding area to the hotel, including painting a quilt block, making a morse code bracelet, learning about Mark Twain, and enjoying traditional Mexican dancing with a local troop. Youth also participated in a service project filling buckets with personal items for forest fire victims.

While Cade Howerton and Ryleigh Hartsell led Junior activities on Friday, others attended an important workshop to receive Narcan Training Certification. Led by Montana Grange member Jaycee Jette, attendees learned more about the opioid crisis our country is facing and the rapid rate that people are overdosing, especially from fentanyl. The workshop trained us on how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and how to administer NARCAN, or Naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug. Everyone who attended will receive certification to administer NARCAN. Jette also commented that North Carolina has some of the best laws in the country for administering NARCAN.

After a full day, the National Grange Honors Night commenced. A variety of recognitions were made, and it was a big night for North Carolina. Cade Howerton received 2nd Place for the Quilt Block Contest in the men's category. He and Ryleigh Hartsell also officially ended their year as National Junior Ambassadors that evening.

Two Granges from our state were named Distinguished Granges. Those were Grantham Grange, which was accepted by John and Wanda Crawford, and St. John's Grange, accepted by Diane Hudson and Sharon Ritchie. NC Grange's State Youth Program was also recognized as a Distinguished Youth Program.

As the night continued, Jennie Gentry was presented with the Cultivator of the Year Award by Amanda Brozana Rios. Baylor Howerton received the Youth Recruiter of the Year Award, presented by Mandy Bostwick; and Asheton Medlin was given the Wib & June Justi Youth Community Service Award, announced by Pete Pompper. The crowd was also inspired when Asheton Medlin gave her winning speech for the Public Speaking Contest, "Right is Wrong." The evening ended with the announcement of Autumn Whitaker as an Outstanding Young Adult Patron, selected to serve on the 2023 National Youth Leadership Team. She received her sash from Cole Settle, ending his year on the 2022 team. Needless to say, we were beaming with pride for NC Grange that night!

On Saturday morning, six of our youth participated as a team in the Parliamentary Procedure Contest, winning first place. The team was made up of



Jacob Roquet, President; Carson Lackey, Vice President; Karly Denning, Steward; Olivia Barber, Chaplain; Samantha Hunnings, Gatekeeper; and Carter Settle, Secretary. Jacob received Best Chair Recognition and Carson Lackey was recognized as Highest Scoring Individual. They demonstrated great leadership in their performance conducting a Grange meeting. That afternoon, Jimmy Gentry, David Allen, Jennie Gentry, and Jessica Horton enjoyed taking our group of 10 youth on an outing to visit the town of Truckee, CA, and see the beautiful Lake Tahoe, a much-deserved trip for this hardworking group of young people.

The convention adjourned Saturday night after two events. First was the traditional celebration banquet to commemorate the week's successes and learn exciting details for next year's convention. The final event, the Evening of Excellence, showcased Grange talent from across the country. NC Grange members Shirley Edwards, Jimmy Martin, and LaRue Tart of Wayne County inspired everyone, singing a gospel song as the vocal trio Canaan Land. The group won our State Grange Talent Contest earlier this year. Baylor Howerton, Asheton Medlin, and Autumn Whitaker also beautifully performed their group sign-a-song, "Learn to Do It" from Anastasia, as this year's contest winners.

Grange members enjoyed their time together at the convention and supporting each other throughout the week. They also visited with old friends, made new ones, and are already looking forward to next year's convention in Niagara Falls.



NC GRANGERS RECEIVE NATIONAL HONORS

BY: JENNIE GENTRY

The National Grange presents special honors and awards annually at the National Grange Convention. This was especially exciting for four of our NC Grange members, Asheton Medlin, Baylor Howerton, Autumn Whitaker, and Jennie Gentry, who were honored this year in Sparks, NV, for their service, recruitment, and hard work for the Grange. They were surprised with these respected awards, not knowing ahead of time that they were selected.

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The National Grange's Wib and June Justi Youth Community Service Award was presented to Asheton Medlin this year in recognition of her dedication to community service. She was nominated by State Grange Youth Director Jennie Gentry who cited the many ways that Medlin has served her community. From Bushy Fork Grange, Medlin is a hardworking, full-time college student with a part-time job who makes time to serve her community. At UNC, she is a member of the Helping Paws Club which holds projects and fundraisers to help local animal rescues. She also volunteers regularly, often weekly, at the Orange County Animal Shelter to love on the animals and help where needed, and foster dogs while working to find them loving homes. Medlin also organized a military care package drive in her hometown of Roxboro to send much needed items to our troops overseas.

In her nomination form, Gentry stated, "Asheton serves because she has the compassion and desire to help others. She is a class-act with one of the biggest hearts I have ever seen, always first to volunteer with a positive, bright attitude. She never boasts about her service, never expects recognition for it, and never asks for a thank you. She thanks others for LETTING her serve. It's so inspiring!" When expressing her gratitude, Medlin stated, "I have always strived to give back in every way possible, but I believe the Grange is what pushed me to really get out in my community and help. To receive this award from the organization that first introduced me to what community service really means is an unbelievable honor."

Wib Justi served as National Grange Youth Director for 18 years, the first to serve in the position.

He and his wife, June, passionately worked to serve others and to inspire youth to do the same. We are so proud of Medlin and know the Justis would be as well.

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AWARD

Baylor Howerton received the National Grange's Youth Membership Recruitment Award in recognition of her hard work to grow membership in the Grange. She, too, was nominated by Jennie Gentry, who listed the many ways Howerton has worked to promote Grange membership.

Howerton loves talking to people about the Grange. She has worked several years in the Grange Booth at both the State Fair and the State FFA Convention Expo to talk to the public about the Grange. "What amazes me is how much enthusiasm Baylor has when working these events. She constantly talks to people and rarely takes a break because she doesn't want to miss the opportunity to tell another person about the Grange," stated Gentry. This year, Howerton also worked an information booth for the National Grange at the Farm Aid Concert in Raleigh. She worked with state and national Grange staff to educate concert goers on food waste while also telling them about the Grange. At all of these events, she attained email addresses of people interested in more information about the Grange.

Howerton has never shied away from telling people about the Grange. Many youth have gotten involved after first attending Grange Camp, which she invited them to attend. This also led to growth in youth membership at Bushy Fork Grange where she is a member. Howerton's eagerness to talk to others about the Grange and to express the impact it has had on her life is very moving. It



all comes from the heart, which is one reason she is such a great ambassador for Grange and a well-deserved recipient of this award.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG PATRON

After the introductions of the State Ambassadors and Young Adult Patrons at the National Convention's Evening of Excellence, Autumn Whitaker of Little Mountain Grange was announced as Outstanding Young Patron and selected to serve on the 2023 National Grange Youth Leadership Team.

Whitaker has worked hard this year as our first Young Adult Patron, serving as an ambassador for our state's young adult program. She has traveled to state and national events to promote



these programs, has helped lead activities and workshops, and has helped mentor our state's youth team. She truly set a precedence for the future of our state's Young Adult Patron Program. For the next year, Whitaker will serve in this leadership role by traveling to lead activities at National Grange events and to promote

the Grange. Under the leadership of new National Grange Youth Director Samantha Wilkins, she will also develop and implement youth and young adult programming for the year. Whitaker will be serving with Gail Switzer of Pennsylvania who was also announced to serve on the team as a Young Adult Patron. After receiving her sash, Whitaker stated, "I am so honored to be selected to this year's team, and I'm excited to work with Gail and Samantha who have already accomplished so much. I know that as a team, we will continue to build opportunities for youth and young adults nationally. I'm also truly grateful to NC Grange. I know that without their help and support, I would not be able to uphold such

a title." We commend Whitaker on all of her hard work this year and on her selection to this national leadership role.

CULTIVATOR OF THE YEAR

Four people across the nation were honored with the National Grange's Cultivator of the Year Award. Presented by National Grange Membership Director Amanda Brozana Rios, one of those recipients was Jennie Gentry, NC Grange's State Youth and Young Adult Director. According to the National Grange, this award sets out to honor individuals who are putting in the work to grow the Grange through innovative and positive messaging and programming. Defining the group of winners, Brozana Rios stated, "Each of these individuals helped the Grange in their respective communities and states, but they went far beyond that. They give selflessly and promote fearlessly and for that, they are truly deserving of this recognition."

When presenting the award, Brozana Rios commended Gentry on her work with youth and young adults, stating, "Jennie Gentry was selected because of the tremendous work she has done to not just prepare the Youth and Young Adults of the NC State Grange to talk about their Grange experience, but the care she has taken to ensure that experience is one they want to talk about." Brozana Rios continued, "These youth come prepared, they speak well, they mean what they say, and their enthusiasm is infectious. The value of Jennie's work and leadership cannot be understated. She is their cheerleader, their mentor, and a place of solace when they are facing hard times, truly embodying the idea of fellowship and fraternalism."

Gentry was asked to sit near the stage at the Grange Honors Night with her father, Jimmy Gentry, because he was being honored. Her task was to make sure he sat up front. In a surprising twist, the award was actually for her, which he knew about. Jennie Gentry expressed, "What an incredible surprise! I cannot begin to describe how honored I am to receive this award. I want to thank the National Grange and Amanda for the honor and express my gratitude to her for her touching, kind words. It means the world to me. I absolutely love working with youth and young adults. I tell people all the time that I work hard to try to inspire them, even just a little bit, but I am the one who ends up being inspired. I am truly grateful."





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