

The official publication of the NC Grange

September / October 2020

# GRANGE NEWS



# contents

3	<b>A Note From Jimmy</b> NC State Grange President
4	<b>State Convention</b>
6	<b>Capitol News</b>
7	<b>Distinguished Granges</b>  <b>Corriher Fire Pit</b>
8	<b>Letter from Pete Pomper</b>
9	<b>Broadband</b>
10	<b>Scholarship Recipients</b>
12	<b>Gotcha Covered</b>
13	<b>Grange Advocates For Early Cancer Detection</b>
14	<b>Ferguson Grange &amp; Gene Moore</b>
15	<b>Chaplain's Corner</b>

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Program Director	<b>Bobbie Dellinger</b>
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Assistant Steward	<b>Wayne Stack</b>
Lady Asst. Steward	<b>Crystal Allen</b>
Chaplain	<b>Jerry Snyder</b>
Treasurer	<b>Julia Stack</b>
Secretary	<b>Deborah Welch</b>
Greeter	<b>Philip Duncan</b>
Ceres	<b>Dianne Hudson</b>
Pomona	<b>Frances Suther</b>
Flora	<b>Janice Wilcox</b>

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Youth/Young Adult Director	<b>Jennie Gentry</b>
Junior Director	<b>Emily Hartsell</b>
Community Service Director	<b>Sharon Underwood</b>
Publications Director	<b>Jessica Horton</b>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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November 17-21      **National Convention | King of Prussia, PA**  
(delegates only)

November 26-27      **Thanksgiving / Office Closed**

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The Grange is a grassroots, community service, family organization with a special interest in agriculture and designed to help meet the needs of people, young and old, through a cooperative effort with government and other organizations that also seek the greatest good for the greatest number.

North Carolina Grange News (USPS 392-780) is the official publication of The North Carolina State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy, Statesville, NC 28625 and is published bi-monthly. The yearly subscription cost is included in the annual membership dues for members of The North Carolina State Grange. ISSN # 0279-5914—Periodical Postage Paid in Statesville, NC and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The N.C. State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625.





## A NOTE FROM JIMMY: UPDATES

State Convention was quite different this year with an abbreviated version on Zoom. This session usually takes approximately two and one-half days, but we finished the online version in about an hour and a half. We had Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler as a guest speaker and voted on resolutions and the budget. The awards program was conducted on the evening before which was well-attended and went very smoothly. This was the off-election year so we had only a couple of board seats plus one other officer to elect. Grange Bylaws require that elections be held by secret ballot, and we were unable to figure out a good way to do this through a computer meeting, so the Board made the decision to delay elections until next year in hopes that we will resume meeting in person. Next year's convention is scheduled for September 9-12 at the University Hilton in Charlotte, which is where we would have been this year. We rescheduled with this hotel because we were facing an expensive cancellation fee for this year's convention. By rescheduling with this hotel, that fee was greatly reduced.

Our concern continues to be the pandemic and when we might be able to return to in-person meetings. There are many differing reports on when a vaccine will be readily available, making it

difficult to determine the status of next year's events. We all hope that a good vaccine is available soon.

The Board will be discussing our annual Family Conference to determine whether we want to try to schedule this event for next spring.

Even with the pandemic, we had several Granges to conduct some great activities which were recognized during our awards program. We begin a new Grange year on October 1. I hope that every Grange will consider projects that you can safely conduct to keep your momentum going.

For safety, the office staff is still working from home. If you need to get in touch with one of us knowing that no one will be available to answer the office phone, you are welcome to contact us by email. All staff email addresses are listed on our website: [www.ncgrange.com](http://www.ncgrange.com).

Finally, we added a new feature to Grange News that gives our members the opportunity to list items that you may have for sale. We listed the replaced Grange vehicle in the last issue, and it sold quickly! I urge you to take advantage of this new member benefit, and it is free.

## NC GRANGE CONVENTION VIRTUAL AWARDS AND MEETING

*by: Jessica Harlan*

It is no secret that 2020 has been wildly different than any other year. When Family Conference was halted just as it was scheduled to begin on March 13 in Nags Head, no one dreamed we would also be missing the annual State Convention come September.

Following the decision made by the National Grange Board of Directors to host a very small, abbreviated Convention this November in Pennsylvania, the North Carolina Grange staff and Board of Directors was forced to reconsider hosting an in-person convention at the University Hilton in Charlotte. The hotel graciously extended an offer the NC Grange could not refuse, so the decision was made to move the state session to an online Zoom event with the understanding that our 2021 meeting will *hopefully* resume as normal next fall at the University Hilton.

The staff elected to utilize the same dates scheduled for convention to seize the opportunity that members who originally planned to attend would still have the dates available to meet via Zoom. Granges were asked to name their delegates who then registered online. Once we were close to the meeting date, information was sent to registered delegates, staff, and department heads only. This helped eliminate any confusion of who had voting privileges.

As the meeting opened, members across the state chit chatted with each other before the formalities began. State Grange President Jimmy Gentry opened the meeting, welcoming all and thanking them for joining us during this unique time. He then passed the podium to North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Troxler for comments. Commissioner Troxler briefed Grange members on the NC General

Assembly appropriated Covid funds to the NC Department of Agriculture and made remarks on several other ag related matters as well.

- A total of \$24.4 million were appropriated to the Department of Agriculture.
- \$2 million was appropriated to assist dairy farmers that have been under the gun for 3 years.
- \$750,000 went towards a farmers market program to benefit small farmers.
- \$5 Million to food banks across North Carolina
- All funds must be appropriated by Dec. 31st or it reverts back to the Federal Government.
- The Mountain State Fair and the NC State Fair were both cancelled but are holding Jr. Livestock shows for kids that have worked very hard in preparation of showing their animals.
- The State Fair has been through a lot and has had financial issues due to having to cancel 215 events. They have had to furlough 32 full time and 13 part time employees.
- Commissioner Troxler believes the tobacco situation in NC is going to improve with the Chinese who are beginning to come back into the US tobacco market.

Commissioner Troxler overall seemed very pleased with the General Assembly's assistance during the Covid crisis. He also asked for all of our support in the General Election as he runs for his 5th term.

A roll call of Delegates was made, and Committee Chairman David Allen began the work of reviewing resolutions that made it through the previous committee process.

Resolutions ranged from issues facing autopsy reports to



public school resources to state income taxes. Thankfully, technology seemed to work without a hitch! Members were able to comment on resolutions, debate them, make amendments and ultimately accept or reject them.

Because the NC Grange Convention also plays host to many award presentations, the staff made as many accommodations as possible to keep those awards in place. Notebook style entries were accepted as usual, mailed to the office and judged by non-members. While that worked well, the on-site contests did not fare as well. Unfortunately, without gathering together, the baking, art and craft contests had to be cancelled. However, with the help of technology and Zoom, the photography contest was able to go on as planned. Members submitted their entries via email and Jessica Horton, NC Grange Event Coordinator, categorized all entries, hosted a Zoom call with three local photographers and had them judged electronically. This process went very well, and the NC Grange is thankful to each judge for their time spent with us!

The notebook entries were judged prior to the meeting, and an awards ceremony was hosted on Friday, September 11. President Jimmy Gentry was able to recognize many of the recipients that evening and their contributions to their respective fields. The North Carolina Grange Educator of the Year and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year will both go on to compete in the National Grange contest. A complete list of award recipients can be found on this page.

Thank you to all the local Granges that have continued to persevere through this strange year. The NC Grange is thankful you are continuing to provide support to those in need. We hope next year will be filled with hugs, meals together and laughter in the same room.



Adult Poem 1st	<b>Adele Goodman</b>
Adult Creative Writing 1st	<b>Sherwood Williford</b>
Adult Creative Writing 2nd	<b>Adele Goodman</b>
Adult Creative Writing 3rd	<b>Rosemary Hege</b>
Military Person of the Year	<b>Captain John Kistler, Cape Fear Grange</b>
Farm of the Year	<b>Johnson Family Farm, Kirby Johnson, Edneyville Grange</b>
Church of the Year	<b>Unity United Methodist Church, Corriher Grange</b>
Fire Department of the Year	<b>Edneyville Fire &amp; Rescue, Edneyville Grange</b>
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year	<b>Benjamin Bryant, Edneyville Grange</b>
Legislative Affairs	<b>Edneyville Grange</b>
Educator of the Year	<b>Kellie Perkins, Cape Fear Grange</b>
Community Service 1st	<b>Arcadia Grange</b>
Community Service 2nd	<b>Ferguson Grange</b>
Community Service 3rd	<b>Cape Fear Grange</b>
Family Living	<b>Cape Fear Grange</b>
Program Director	<b>John Tart, II Grantham Grange</b>
Grange of the Year	<b>Grantham Grange</b>
Secretary of the Year	<b>Nina Hayes, Little Mountain Grange</b>
Photo: Trees 1st Adult	<b>Jean Pace, Brittons Neck Grange (SC)</b>
Photo: Trees 2nd Adult	<b>Jessie Smith, Grantham Grange</b>
Photo: Trees 3rd Adult	<b>Susan Albright, Troutman Grange</b>
Photo: Sunset 1st Adult	<b>Jessica Horton, Queen City Grange</b>
Photo: Sunset 1st Youth	<b>Pam McCarrick, Ferguson Grange</b>
Photo: Sunset 2nd Adult	<b>Amber Long, Bushy Fork Grange</b>
Photo: Sunset 3rd Adult	<b>Cyndee Van Sweden, Ferguson Grange</b>
Photo: Grange Activities: 1st Adult	<b>Joyce Hood, Grantham Grange</b>
Photo: Grange Activities: 2nd Adult	<b>Mark Hood, Grantham Grange</b>
Photo: Grange Activities: 3rd Adult	<b>Joyce Hood, Grantham Grange</b>
Photo: Farm: 1st Adult	<b>Sallie Stevens, Grantham Grange</b>
Photo: Farm: 2nd Adult	<b>Kelli Rapp, Arcadia Grange</b>
Photo: Farm: 3rd Adult	<b>Mark Davis, NC Grange</b>
Photo: Instagram	<b>Sherwood Williford, Grantham Grange</b>
Grand Prize Photo	<b>Jessica Horton, Queen City Grange</b>
	<b>Jessie Smith, Grantham Grange (trees)</b>

# CAPITOL NEWS

by: *Laurie Barnhart*

I hardly know where to begin with this article for Grange News. Currently, President Trump has been hospitalized after testing positive for Covid. Melania Trump, Senator Thom Tillis and several members of the President's staff have also tested positive. To date, all seem to be doing well although it is still early in their diagnosis. Predictions about the disease's outcome and the possible scenarios have consumed the news from nearly every media outlet and social platform that exists including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked In, newspapers, emails and so on. With the 2020 election less than a month away, the diagnoses of these leaders have only complicated things further.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was affectionately known as "RBG," passed away on September 18. Justice Ginsburg, appointed by President Clinton to the Supreme Court in 1993, was well respected from both sides of the aisle and will be missed by many. She was known for her endless energy, amazing work ethic and her support of gender equality, women's interests, and civil rights and liberties. She was a role model for women everywhere yet her passing brings another twist in the 2020 election as it leaves an open seat on the Supreme Court. President Trump has nominated Amy Coney Barrett who serves as a circuit judge on the US Court of Appeals for the seventh circuit. Judge Barrett was nominated to the Court of Appeals by President Trump in 2017. This nomination however is by no means a slam dunk!

Judge Barrett will be vetted by the Senate Judiciary committee and then confirmed by the Senate. There are countless rules that can become problematic for the most creditable appointee which can slow the appointment confirmation even though the Senate has a Republican majority. It is very probable that the majority-run Senate will do everything in their power to confirm this appointment while the Democrats will be jockeying to block it, hoping Sen. Biden will win the 2020 election and the Supreme Court appointment will be his appointee rather than President Trump's. This is such an incredibly important position.

As the highest court in America, the decisions made on the Supreme Court are some of the most important. That being said, the selection by the President and the vetting process that follows is a daunting task of utmost importance. Currently on the Supreme Court, the Republicans have the majority with five Justices. If President Trump's appointment is confirmed, that majority will increase to six with the Democrats holding 3 seats. A Supreme Court appointment is a lifetime appointment which makes the

selection and confirmation of a justice that much more important. The impact of Supreme Court decisions has the potential to affect everyone. The critical role of the court is to ensure that the decisions and changing views of the majority that are in power do not "undermine the fundamental values common to all Americans, i.e., freedom of speech, freedom of religion and due process of law." (UScourts.gov)

The North Carolina General Assembly convened on September 2 for a brief two days adjourning September 3 Sine Die, which in Latin means "without a day" or "indefinitely." There is a very slim chance members could be called back if Congress passes round two of the Cares packages, but at this late date and with all that is going on in Washington, that is highly unlikely. During this latest session, the NC General Assembly appropriated the remaining Covid-19 funds that were allocated by Congress earlier. The breakdown of those allocations are as follows:

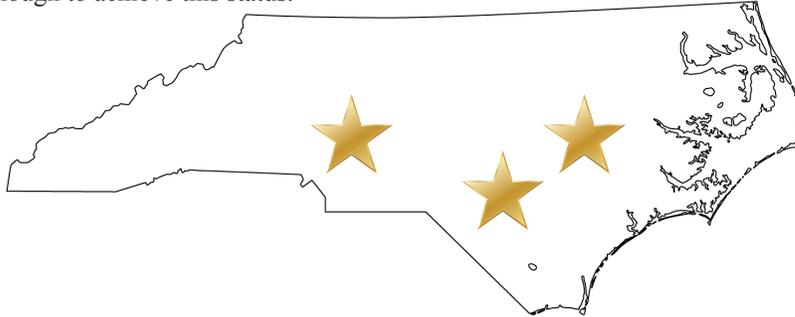
- \$440 million to give North Carolina households with parents of children 17 and younger a \$335 stimulus check to help offset costs associated with remote learning at schools;
- \$10 million to the Department of Public Instruction to improve internet connectivity for students by providing community and home mobile internet access points;
- \$87 million to increase the weekly unemployment compensation benefit by \$50;
- Funds for personal protective equipment at K-12 schools (\$20 million), community colleges (\$5 million), and University of North Carolina (UNC) campuses (\$13 million);
- \$5 million to help conduct the 2020 general election;
- \$35 million for grants to licensed day care providers;
- \$30 million to the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Fund to incent internet providers to extend service to unserved and underserved areas; and
- \$45 million for hurricane and storm relief and \$24 million for earthquake recovery.

All seats in the NC General Assembly are up for election this year. Candidates all over the state are at home in their respective districts campaigning and raising money feverishly for the 2020 election. Please make plans to vote either in person on November 3, during early voting from October 15 to October 31, or by way of an absentee ballot. The deadline to submit a request for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 27. As of October 4, 1,157,606 absentee ballots have been requested and 356,297 ballots have been cast. The NC Board of Elections has a tracking device that allows you to see exactly when they receive your ballot and when it has been counted. There are 7,200,759 registered voters in North Carolina. In the meantime, stay tuned for weekly legislative updates in "Capitol Connect." Stay safe and stay healthy!



# Distinguished Granges

Congratulations to Cape Fear, Grantham and St. John's Granges for earning Distinguished Grange status this year. They were recognized during a virtual awards ceremony held on the evening of September 30. Even during a difficult year, these Granges managed to remain active enough to achieve this status.



## CORRIHER GRANGE FIREPIT

*by: David Allen*



Corriher Grange met for our monthly meeting on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The weather made for a perfect Autumn night as we met outside around the bonfire.

We had twenty-nine members present and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together. As the shadows

lengthened, everyone gathered closer to the fire. It was hard to believe we only have two more scheduled meetings left for the year. Soon 2020 and all that has come with it will be in our collective history. As we spent our time just being together, we were all aware of the members, family, and friends that have been lost too, without the opportunity to spend the time that was needed and wanted. While most certainly have not been lost to COVID, they have all been lost in the time of COVID. It was good to be able to share time together.

During our meeting, the generational change of our organization was on vivid display. President Bobbie Dellinger presided over our meeting and provided devotions.

Looking and listening to her, it was impossible not to realize that she was carrying the torch that was lit and passed to her by her mother, Corriher Grange Icon Carolyn McLaughlin. After Bobbie spoke, we were entertained by Program Director, Vinnie Duncan, who presented an informative Autumn program. It is hard to forget that she was sharing and practicing what she had learned by watching her father, Corriher Grange's 73 year member, Hoke Karriker.

While the legacy of the past was evident, we were also blessed with a possible glimpse of the future. Our group included nine juniors who enjoyed helping tend the fire and cooking marshmallows for S'mores. I overheard one of the Juniors comment, 'I love this place.' That brought to home a conversation a couple of our members had regarding the future of our organization. The future depends on retaining our members, such as this young member, so that as time passes, the attitude remains the same, "love this place."



Greetings Grangers,

As the National Grange Community Service Director, I am proud of the work North Carolina Grangers have done in your communities during the Covid 19 crisis. Granges and Grangers have stepped up to the plate and have done some amazing things. Grangers throughout the country have made thousands of facemasks which have been, and still are being, distributed in their communities. Granges have started or supplied food giveaways or supplied meals for those on the front lines. These are only a few of the community service projects that have been done.

On the National Grange level, we would like to gather information on what you or your Grange has done during this crisis. Our National President, Legislative Director and Communications Director can use this information when they meet with other leaders of National Organizations, Legislators or for press releases. I realize Grangers do not like to brag about what we do, but now is the time. I have prepared a form that you can use to report what your Grange has done. It can also be used to let me know about individual Grangers who have gone above and beyond.

The form is on the National Grange website, or you can contact me directly and I will make sure you get one. The form can be completed and returned to me as soon as possible. They can also be completed as you finish a project that is planned for the future.

Fraternally,  
Pete Pompper  
National Grange Community Service Director  
[communityservice@nationalgrange.org](mailto:communityservice@nationalgrange.org)



Living in the moment,  
without a moment of worry.

**That's the Benefit of Blue.**<sup>SM</sup>

Authorized Agency  
**NC State Grange**

*Mark H Davis*  
(336) 613-6315



BlueCross BlueShield  
of North Carolina

# Americans Are Voting for Broadband

By Bruce Mehlman  
September 10, 2020

For most of us, it's hard to imagine having spent the last six months without access to reliable, high-speed broadband internet. But for at least 18 million Americans, that's been their everyday reality – limited options for staying in touch with family and friends, lost work opportunities, no connectivity for distance learning and no way to benefit from telehealth visits.

The urgent need to close the “Digital Divide” by filling the gaps in high-speed internet access – in terms of availability, affordability and accessibility – came through loud and clear in a new Morning Consult poll of American voters, commissioned by the Internet Innovation Alliance. Over 90 percent said that the current lack of universal broadband access is a problem, with 63 percent calling it a “major” problem. Three in five American voters (62 percent) want Congress to fix the problem “immediately.”

Broadband has become increasingly important over the past 20 years, but what is finally pushing this change to the top of the list of priorities? According to IIA's poll, it's the challenges arising from the pandemic and, in particular, the impact of distance learning, as more than 55 million students and teachers have moved to distance learning at least part time. Twelve million students are without home broadband, according to the Senate Joint Economic Committee (15 million, according to Common Sense Media), which means that more than one-fifth of students are falling behind their digitally enabled peers.

Roughly three-quarters of voters (76 percent) say the lack of broadband access for distance learning is a “major” problem, while another 19 percent say it is a “minor” problem. That's 95 percent who agree it is a problem. And with nearly every student in America back in “school” as of this week, it's one that must be addressed now. In the world's greatest nation, in the 21st century, no child should be left offline.

Backing the inclusion of broadband funding in the recovery and rebuilding legislation, nine out of 10 American voters support Congress' using federal funds to expand broadband internet network infrastructure to reach those living in areas not currently serviced by a broadband internet provider, with three out of five American voters (62 percent) wanting this “immediately.” Nearly as many American voters

(88 percent) support Congress creating new programs and increasing federal funding for existing programs that either partially subsidize or fully cover broadband internet access to those who cannot currently afford it, with 62 percent wanting that to happen “immediately.” That's an overwhelming majority saying that Congress should act, and act now.

What does action mean? A series of steps need to be taken right away. Congress should start by fully funding the Broadband DATA Act, so unserved areas are identified with greater granularity and federal dollars can be targeted with precision to households that lack broadband access. Then Congress should appropriate the tens of billions of dollars needed to connect unserved areas, mostly in rural America. The Lifeline Program, which provides to low-income families a monthly subsidy that can be used toward broadband services, should be modernized and maximized as well. Rather than keeping service providers as middlemen, the benefit should be provided directly to consumers via a debit card, similar to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, so recipients can choose among the full range of available telecom services that best meet their needs.

Americans not only understand the problem — many are even willing to dig into their own pockets to solve it. Over half (55 percent) of Americans say they would pay a little more to help those who cannot otherwise afford broadband access. The same (56 percent) goes for those living in areas that otherwise would not have access due to lack of availability. Think about that: More than half of Americans said, amid a deep economic downturn with grave uncertainty about the future, that they're willing to open their wallets to help other Americans get broadband. Clearly, Americans understand how important reaching the goal of universal broadband is to our economy and to our society. If the federal government partners with private industry, we can finally get the job done.

It's election season, Congress. Listen to Americans – their vote is for broadband.

*Bruce Mehlman is co-chairman of the Internet Innovation Alliance.*

<https://morningconsult.com/opinions/americans-are-voting-for-broadband/>





# 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



## BAYLOR HOWERTON

-Bushy Fork Grange  
-Piedmont Community College  
-Major: Science



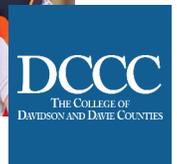
## ALEXIA CASH

-Troutman Grange  
-NC State University  
-Major: Biomedical Engineering



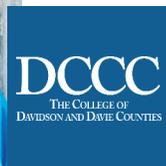
## LOGAN BLACKBURN

-Westbrook Grange  
-NC State University  
-Major: Mechanical Engineering



## LEANN HANES

-Arcadia Grange  
-Davidson County Community College  
-Major: Elementary Education



## MEGAN LEONARD

-Arcadia Grange  
-Davidson County Community College  
-Major: Animal Science



# RENEWAL RECIPIENTS



**Elizabeth Cartwright**

-Guilford Grange  
-UNC Charlotte

-Major: Business Administration



**Tyler Leonard**

-Arcadia Grange

-Appalachian State University

-Major: Communication Science Disorders



**Kirsten Cash**

-Troutman Grange  
-NC State University  
-Major: Zoology



**Maria Rapp**

-Arcadia Grange  
-Catawba College  
-Major: Chemistry



**Amber Covey**

-Arcadia Grange

-Forsyth Technical Community College

-Major: Nursing



**Emma Stack**

-Cape Fear Grange

-University of NC at Chapel Hill

-Major: Economics, Management & Society



**Hannah Gentry**

-Little Mountain Grange  
-NC State University  
-Major: Poultry Science



**Kasey Vann**

-Grantham Grange

-East Carolina University

-Major: Biology



**Zipporah Hayes**

-Taylor's Bridge Grange  
-NC A&T University

Major: Animal Science and Animal Industry



**Matthew Warrick**

-Arcadia Grange

-High Point University

-Doctorate in Pharmacy



**Katie Leonard**

-Arcadia Grange  
-Western Carolina  
University

-Masters in Human  
Resources

# GOTCHA COVERED

## WHAT'S NEW?

*by: Mark Davis*

By the time this issue of Grange News lands in your mailbox, the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare Eligible individuals will be in full swing and will end on December 7. Those who change plans during the AEP will have a new plan effective date of January 1, 2021. There is also a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period for those individuals who are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MA) Plan to disenroll from their current MA plan and return to Original Medicare or another MA plan. This enrollment period starts on January 1, 2021 and ends March 31, 2021.

For 2021, we can offer a BlueCross BlueShield of NC (BCBSNC) Medicare Advantage Plan in 89 of our 100 North Carolina counties with a zero premium. Plans are available to 94% of NC eligible individuals with a contracted provider network. No current BCBSNC Medicare Advantage members will see a premium increase for 2021, but they will see additional benefits. BCBSNC enhanced their plans this year to include additional core benefits such as \$0 Diagnostic Colonoscopies, Copays for Lab and Radiology services, Reduced Specialist Copays and Prescription Drug Coverage. BCBSNC also enhanced their supplemental MA benefits to include the following:

- Post Discharge Meal Support
- An OTC Debit Card with a quarterly allowance for items (including but not limited to) such as acid controllers, antibiotic creams, allergy & sinus medications, bandages, contact lens care, cough drops, denture products, first aid supplies, sun protection, toothbrushes, toothpaste, weight control tablets and vitamins
- Enhanced Dental Allowance

Some of the supplemental benefits of a BCBSNC Medicare Advantage Plan include Vision, TruHearing exams and hearing aid deep discounts, and Silver and Fit, which is available at over 460 locations in North Carolina. Medicare recipients can also choose one of the Medicare Supplement plans offered by BCBSNC. Two of the most popular plans are the Plan "G" and the HiDeductible Plan "G." The MedSupp Plans are honored anywhere in the nation by providers who accept Medicare Reimbursement.

A key takeaway of having senior health care coverage with BCBSNC comes in the form of the "Blue to Blue Rule." As long as you have either a MA Plan or MedSupp with BCBSNC, you can change your plan (within specified change periods) to any Medicare product offered by BCBSNC without having to go through underwriting. This gives you the ability to change plans to closely match your current or future anticipated health care requirements.

Jumping over to the Under65 Healthcare coverage, the Open Enrollment for 2021 coverage begins on November 1, 2020, and runs through December 15, 2020, with a beginning effective date of January 1, 2021. For 2021, we are anticipating a few changes in various regions. For the first time in several years, there will be additional carriers returning to the state in many areas. We do not have access to those carrier's rates, benefits, or networks at the time of this writing. We are waiting on the Department of Insurance's approval for our 2021 premium rates. With the additional competition as well as new rates, all members who qualify for Advanced Premium Tax Credit are highly encouraged to update their income information with the Marketplace. This will assure that members receive the correct subsidy amount for 2021 as that amount is based on the second lowest "silver plan" available in their service areas. BCBSNC is required to send annual notices out to their members by September 30 each year about changes to their members' plans, which includes subsidy amounts. However, members need to remember that the second lowest plan is not determined by that date, so the subsidy amount is most likely going to change prior to January 1, 2021. The major changes in our BCBSNC Under65 plans include:

- Removal of ER Copays (will be a deductible then Coinsurance)
- Pharmacy Coinsurance changes with Tier 5 & 6 drugs
- HSA Plans: IRS now allows Rx coverage for certain conditions, like Asthma, Diabetes, High BP, or High Cholesterol, PRIOR to the deductible being met
- A new limited provider network with Novant Health (in limited areas)
- Expansion of the UNC Health Alliance network in Nash County
- Reintroduction of BlueAdvantage as an Off Marketplace product in the Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte and Gastonia Regions

Blue 20/20 Vision Care is available again this year. This plan is available to anyone, under and over age 65. You do not have to have a BCBSNC medical plan to obtain this individual vision coverage either. Vision coverage helps keep our vision healthy and regular exams can catch early signs of other serious medical issues. According to the

article by S.D. James, "Get an Eye Exam: Arthritis to Cancer Seen in the Eye" (April 11, 2012 from abcnews.go.com), the annual eye exam is a key to early diagnosis of several medical conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, some cancers, neuromuscular diseases and more. BCBSNC is offering two different vision plans:

1. A basic plan that just covers the annual eye exam and some discounts for contact lenses, frames and lenses.
2. The Exam Plus Plan that covers the annual eye exam plus an allowance for frames, lens, or contact lenses. This plan also has discounts for frames that exceed the allowance, offers additional services such as UV treatments, tint, scratch coatings, etc., and offers a discount for Laser Vision Correction.

The monthly premiums for both vision plans are attractive and will benefit many NC Grange members. BCBSNC is also using the EyeMed network providers, which include many local providers such as MyEyeDr, LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, and the Independent Provider Network. Finding a provider that accepts this insurance coverage should not be an issue. If there is not an in-network provider in your area, or your current provider is not in the EyeMed network, you will have the option of seeing the out-of-network provider on a reimbursement basis, but at a lesser benefit amount for out-of-network providers. If you would like more information on the new Vision Program, you can call your local NC Grange Agent or the Insurance Program Director to learn more and to assist you with enrollment in this new Individual Vision Coverage.

With all the enhancements and changes for 2021, give us a call, and we will be delighted to help you navigate the options for you to choose the plan that best fits your needs and your wallet!

## NC Grange Advocates for Early Cancer Detection

BY: JIMMY GENTRY

On September 17, 2020, NC Grange was invited to sign a coalition letter going to Congress asking that the Medicare program be modified to cover any new tests being developed for early cancer detection. Medicare recipients are those 65 years and older and are at a higher risk for cancer. Research continues to develop early cancer screening tests, and as they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it is important that Congress approve insurance coverage for these tests for Medicare patients. New preventive services which include cancer screenings must be approved by Congress for inclusion in the Medicare program. We hope Congress looks favorably upon this effort to update Medicare coverage so that these new technologies can be made available to our senior citizens.



### ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAIL FROM US?

If you are, great! If not, please consider adding your email to our list. We send bi-weekly emails on Monday mornings with new updates. You are free to unsubscribe at any time, however if you unsubscribe you will have to add yourself back if at any time you wish to receive emails again. Our software will not let us add you back.

Emails from the NC Grange are the fastest form of communication for the staff. You will receive event notifications, Grange News early to your inbox, special news alerts and other important information. We will never sell your email address, and we will never spam you!

If you are not receiving emails, but would like to, visit [ncgrange.com](http://ncgrange.com) and click 'join our mailing list' at the top of the page.



### The Grange Exchange

The Grange Exchange is a new column here in *Grange News* to help members sell an item. If you have something you'd like to sell email it to Jessica Horton at [JLHorton@ncgrange.com](mailto:JLHorton@ncgrange.com) to list it!

# Gene Moore The Gardener



One of our Grange members is featured in the 2020 seed catalog from the Seedworthy Seed Company. Gene Moore, a member of Clay County Grange, is an avid gardener. Officials with the seed company gave us permission to feature photos of Gene that are included in the catalog. The company specializes in heirloom seeds, and Gene allows Seedworthy some space in his garden to plant some of their plant varieties. According to the catalog, “Gene, an old timey gardener who loves to grow Chinese Okra, Luffa Ridge Gourd, and Golden Jubilee tomatoes, offered us space in his big town garden to plant as we choose.” The company is also interested in providing pollinators for bee health. Gene and the Seedworthy Company are both located in Hayesville, NC. By the way, Gene is also a great buck dancer!

## FERGUSON GRANGER SERVES

*by: Sharon Underwood*

Ferguson Grange member, Pam McCarrick shown with the 25 baby “taggies” she made to donate to the NC State Grange project “Baby Bundles.”



## GRANGE Revival

Days End Campground  
Sturgis, South Dakota  
July 20-25, 2021

Mark your calendars and pack your bags!  
Grange Revival 2021 is scheduled for July 20-25, 2021!  
at Days End Campground in Sturgis, South Dakota.  
More than 70 Grangers joined us in 2019 for the inaugural  
event held in Ozark, Arkansas. Now it's your turn!



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## LOVE AND HATE

by: Jerry Snyder, NC Grange Chaplain

I am borrowing passages from my *Life Application Bible* from the introduction to Micah, the prophet.

"I HATE YOU!" she screams and runs from the room. Words from a child, thrown as emotional darts. Perhaps she learned the phrase from Mom and Dad, or maybe it just burst forth from that inner well of "sinful nature." Whatever the case, hate and love have become society's bywords, almost tired cliches, tossed carelessly at objects, situations, and even people.

Mechanical use of such words as "love" and "hate" have emptied them of their meaning. We no longer understand the statements that describe a loving God who hates sin. So, we picture God as gentle and kind – a cosmic "pushover;" and our concepts of what he hates is tempered by our misconceptions and wishful thinking.

The words of Micah, the prophet, stand in stark contrast to such misconceptions. God's hatred is real – burning, consuming, and destroying. He hates sin, and he stands as a righteous judge, ready to map out just punishment for all who defy his rule. God's love is also real. So real that he sent his Son, the Messiah, to save and accept the judgment in the sinner's place. Love and hate are together – both unending, irresistible, and unfathomable.

In seven short chapters, Micah presents the true picture of God, the almighty Lord who hates sin and loves the sinner. Much of the book is devoted to describing God's judgment on Israel and Judah and on all the earth. This judgment will come because of their sins. And Micah lists their despicable sins, including fraud, theft, pride, theft, greed, debauchery, oppression, hypocrisy,

heresy, injustice, extortion and lying, murder and other offenses. God's judgment will come.

In the midst of this overwhelming prediction of destruction, Micah gives hope and consolation because he also describes God's love. The truth is that judgment comes only after countless opportunities to repent, to turn back to true worship and obedience - "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God," (Micah 6:8). But even in the midst of judgment God promises to deliver a small minority who have continued to follow him. He states, "Their king will pass through before them, the Lord at their head," (Micah 2:13). The King, of course, is Jesus, and we read in Micah 5:2 that he will be born as a baby in Bethlehem, an obscure Judean village.

As you read Micah, catch a glimpse of God's anger in action as he judges and punishes sin. See God's love in action as he offers eternal life to all who repent and believe. As we see in John 3:16, determine to join the faithful remnant of God's people who live according to his will.

Resource: Tyndale House Publishers (1988). "Micah." *Life Application Bible*: pp.1566.





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