

The official publication of the NC Grange

March / April 2023

GRANGE NEWS



*2023
Family
Conference*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 9-15, 2023 Grange Camp
Columbia, NC
- August 4-6, 2023 Regional Conference
North Carolina
- September 21-24, 2023 State Convention
Charlotte, NC

On the cover:
Grangers celebrated St. Patrick's Day while attending Family Conference in Kitty Hawk, NC.



STATE OFFICERS

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Vice President **David Allen**
Program Director **Bobbie Dellinger**
Steward **Barden Culbreth**
Assistant Steward **Wayne Stack**
Lady Asst. Steward **Crystal Allen**
Chaplain **LaRue Tart**
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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.

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FROM JIMMY | THE GRANGE COURTS A DOCTOR

An article was sent to me recently that is on a website called *Abandoned NC*. The title of the article is “The Grange Courts a Doctor.” It is a very interesting article about Windsor’s Crossroads Grange that was located in southern Yadkin County, a few miles from the Iredell County line. I have been by there several times, and a large building still exists that once housed the Grange Hall. It now houses a Ruritan Club.

The article goes back to 1957 when during a meeting discussion took place about the need for a doctor in the community. The Grange decided that they would take this on as a project and set about finding a doctor. Ultimately, they were successful in recruiting Dr. Irvin George Scherer to the community. The Grange also made arrangements to build a clinic for Dr. Scherer.

I never met Dr. Scherer, but I have heard of him. He had a long tenure of taking care of people through his medical practice. After he began his practice at Windsor’s Crossroads, in 1976 a new clinic was built in northern Iredell County between Harmony and Union Grove called the Tri-County Medical Park where he continued to work for the rest of his career. He passed away in 2014. Not only did the Grange succeed in recruiting a doctor, they also brought a true man of God into

the community. He served as an assistant pastor as well as a Gideon.

This was a significant event in the life of Windsor’s Crossroads Grange. Not only did they recruit a doctor, but they were also instrumental in getting a clinic built for his work. This was a big deal!

I like to think that impacting lives in a good way is exactly what the Grange should be doing. The Windsor’s Crossroads event took place in the 1950’s. What are we doing now? What are the big deal projects? Granges today are just as capable of doing big projects as they were able to do in the 50’s. I encourage all Granges to self-examine and determine what you have done recently to impact lives, and what your plans are for the coming year. What have you identified that is needed in your community? Who needs help? What needs to be improved? Have a discussion in one or more of your Grange meetings about something that would be good for your community, make your plans, and act on it. You never know, someone 66 years from now may write a historical article about it!

If you would like to read the article, go to www.abandonednc.org.



REDEMPTION

SPRING is finally here! After this roller coaster winter weather, I am thankful we are having nice days to enjoy getting out into the sunshine and gathering with family and friends for parties and fun.

Spring brings many new things such as the new growth of flowers. I especially love seeing the daffodils volunteering their heads up to the sky seemingly saying, "I'm redeemed from the cold ground." I look forward to the excitement of planting vegetables in the garden and the fresh smell of soil being overturned by the plows in the fields. Spring also brings daylight savings time, which I personally wish stayed all the time.

My favorite by far is the season of Easter where we celebrate the resurrection and restoration of new the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. New life, new beginning! It was on that old rugged cross where redemption took place for us all who believe. He's alive and well!

Jesus specializes in freeing people from sin and bondage. You may often think back to easier, less stressful times in your life and wish for a return to better days. But God wants you to understand the meaning of redemption. It always involves going from something to something else. He freed us from the bondage of the law to give us freedom – a new life. The precious blood of Christ obtained our release from the past of sin.

As we walk on the path Jesus established for our future, we will not be returning to the past, nor should we want to go back. "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God," Luke 9:12. We must look ahead and keep our rows straight on the narrow way to follow Jesus. He is taking the hurts, the hard-fought battles, the wounds, and the kernels of your earlier faith, and He is forming them into something brand new – a maturing faith that will be a megaphone to the world, proclaiming that He is the God of restoration and resurrection. Our testimony will be an example that will point others to Jesus and help them find their own stories of redemption. I pray you have the desire like me and want to keep your hand to the plow and look up to the sky, for our redemption draws near.



Welcome new members!

John Bunn – Associate
 Jerry Creech – Associate
 Judy Rowe – Associate
 Lynn Hardee – Associate
 Jonathan Hardee – Associate
 Melanie Hardee – Associate
 Judith Castleberry – Associate
 Edna Stancil – Associate
 Mark Apple – Associate
 Lloyd Roberts – Associate
 Stuart Beam – Associate
 Angel Lawing – Associate
 Sandra Barnes – Associate
 Dan Mosca – Associate
 Robert Wiggs – Associate
 Sarah Harrison – Associate
 Robert Barber – Associate
 Donna Thompson – Associate
 Michael Houston – Associate
 Kimberly Houston – Associate
 Makayla Barbee – Associate
 Margie Baucom – Corriher Grange
 Angela Herbin – Summerfield Grange
 Michael Herbin – Summerfield Grange

In Memoriam

Geri Gilliam
 Bill Long

Little Mountain Grange
 Summerfield Grange

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

Psalm 138:28
 * 50 Year Member



GRANGER OF THE YEAR!

by : Laurie Barnhart

Philip Duncan, hands down, is one of my most favorite people in the world. To say that he is consistently kind and thoughtful is an understatement. He is a great listener, always anxious to hear how you are. He is the quintessential gentleman and absolutely ageless. Writing this article about Philip Duncan, 2022 Granger of the Year, has been an absolute pleasure.

Philip is the youngest of four children. He and his three sisters grew up in rural Columbus County on the family farm which remains in agricultural production today. At age 17, Philip joined the US Navy and retired as Senior Chief after twenty years of service. He was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal, the Antarctic Service Medal, and other medals and unit citations. Following his military retirement, Philip began farming in Columbus County with his father. Tobacco was the main crop along with corn and soybeans. While farming, Philip received an Associate Degree in Agriculture from Southeastern Community College. He also managed TriCounty Farmers' Association, a vegetable marketing co-op association with an emphasis on sweet potatoes and cabbage.

In March of 1986, Philip was hired by the National Weather Service in Raleigh as a Hydrologic Meteorological Technician. In 1991, the National Weather Service appointed him to the position of Cooperative Program Manager. In 1997 before retiring from federal service, he served at the National Weather Service Eastern Region Headquarters in New York as Eastern Region Director of the Cooperative Program. He retired from the National Weather Service in 1999.

Philip became a member of New Hope Grange in Columbus County in 1974. His Grange membership spans three Granges: New Hope (Columbus County), Capitol (Wake County) and Corriher Grange (Rowan County). During his 49 years as a Grange member, Philip has served on the local level as President, Secretary and Treasurer. Since relocating to Rowan County in 2016, he has been involved in Corriher Grange where he currently serves as Chaplain and assists with the grounds upkeep for the Grange Hall.

Philip's leadership in the State Grange began in 1984 when he worked as a deputy to help start new Granges across the state. He also served as State Grange Steward for 16 years and currently serves as the State Gatekeeper. Philip has participated on

the Sixth Degree Team for many years and continues to instruct the team members on proper "marching" skills. Philip is also a Seventh Degree member of the Grange.

Philip enjoys participating in Grange activities across the state. He has even volunteered as a Junior Counselor at Grange Camp. Over the years, Philip has served on the Grange Law Committee and the State Grange Tobacco Committee to help develop legislative policy. He also represented the Grange on the NC Tobacco Foundation which is now part of the NC Agricultural Foundation at NC State University.

Philip is a lifetime member of the Naval Weather Service Association and the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. He and his wife, Vinnie, reside on Karrimont Farm in the Corriher Grange community of Rowan County. Their three children were involved in the Grange's Junior and Youth Programs. Philip enjoys being "Pawpaw" to four grandchildren who always enjoy visiting the farm and learning how to run the tiller, tend baby goats, hoe peanuts, and shuck corn.

When asked if he could say one thing about the Grange, he responded, "The Grange enhances the quality of citizens' lives all across the United States."

Philip leads an amazing, fruitful life. He has been such a vital member of the NC Grange for so many different reasons. We are blessed to have him as part of our Grange community, and we congratulate him on being named Granger of the Year.



photo provided by Vinnie Duncan



There has been nothing leisurely about the 2023 NC Legislative Long Session thus far. There are many new members that we have made strides to meet and become acquainted with which can be a daunting task with their incredibly demanding schedules; we are making progress however. It was good news in March when Senator Phil Berger and Speaker Tim Moore announced the upcoming budget will be \$29.7 billion dollars for the first year (2023-2024) and \$30.8 billion dollars for the second year (2024-2025). This is the largest budget in our history and with one of the largest percentage increases at roughly 10 percent. The first-year increase is 6.5% from the current budget. The second year is an approximate 3.8% increase. Speaker Moore was quoted saying, "I am confident we can keep our state on the same path to continue the growth and promise our state offers so many." (Carolina Journal)

The first week in April, the North Carolina House voted on and passed their version of the budget that would fund the state government for the next two years, including billions in spending for infrastructure and mental health. The bill also addresses inflation and job vacancies along with pay raises. The budget passing by a vote of 78-37 would spend \$29.9 billion in the next fiscal year and \$30.9 billion the next year. The Senate is in the process of writing their version of the budget. After it passes their chamber, conferees will be appointed to negotiate differences.

HB 76-Access to Healthcare Options, the Medicaid Expansion Bill, after years of debate and negotiations finally pass the NC Legislature and has now passed into law by Governor Cooper. Gov. Cooper in a written statement called the compromise announcement "a monumental step that will save lives." This bill expands Medicaid which many states already have

incorporated into their healthcare systems. With no cost to state government, Medicaid Expansion will allow North Carolina to offer health insurance to hundreds of thousands of the working poor statewide, many of which presently do not qualify for Medicaid in the present system.

There are two rather controversial and heavily debated bills that have been moving through the legislative process, all of which are of interest to the NC Grange. The first hotly debated bill that has passed the Senate and is now in House Rules is the Parent's Bill of Rights. This bill will require schools to tell parents anytime their child asks permission to use a different name or pronoun. The second bill, sponsored by Sen. Bill Rabon, a top legislative leader, is the medical marijuana bill entitled the N.C. Compassionate Care Act, and has been a legislative hot button since it was first brought to the General Assembly. This bill, which is very similar to the bill introduced last session, will allow doctors to prescribe marijuana to people with cancer, post-traumatic stress disorder, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease and some other conditions. The bill stalled in the House last year after being passed by the Senate. Republican Senator Rabon has said that the House has more supportive GOP members than it did in the previous year. The current bill has passed the Senate and is now in House Rules.

Below are bills that have been introduced that the North Carolina Grange is watching:

- SB 184 Restore Master's Pay for Teachers & ISP (Democrat Version)
 - SB 202 Restore Master's Pay for Certain Educators (Republican Version)
- (Of these two bills, SB 202 has a much better chance of passing due to the Republican Majority)
- HB 67 Encourage Healthy NC Food in Schools
 - HB 347 Sports Wagering
 - SB 110 The Uniform Community Property Disposition Death Act

(Heirs Property Bill)

• SB 15 The Hands Free NC Act
The NC Grange was thrilled to see HB 539-NC Farmers Appreciation Day filed. The bill sponsors are Reps. Dixon, McNeely, Bell and Hall. This Resolution was presented by Guilford Grange, and passed by membership at the 2022 September annual meeting. We are also lobbying for appropriations to have school bus safety equipment installed in all North Carolina school buses. This would include funds for the extended STOP arm. Again, this was a resolution that Guilford Grange presented to membership. The Grange is also hoping to get additional funds for the Veterans Farm of North Carolina. In addition, the NC Grange has also been a part of the Heirs Property Bill roundtable discussions. It will be a very busy few months ahead as we continue to work on bills that are of interest to our membership.

Last but not least, a NC Democrat Representative, Tricia Cotham from Charlotte, switched her political designation to Republican which drew National attention. Rep. Cotham's decision will now give the Legislature a veto-proof majority in both the NC House and Senate meaning that both chambers will have the ability to override any vetoes by Governor Cooper. Rep. Cotham was quoted at a news conference saying, "I am still the same person, and I am going to do what I believe is right and follow my conscience".

On the Federal front a resolution that would overturn the "Waters of the United States" ruling known as WOTUS that was laid out during the Obama administration, and reinstated in the current administration was vetoed by President Biden. The legislation to overturn the burdensome rule was led by NC Congressman David Rouzer and was passed by Congress. The veto of this resolution has generated controversy and anger among farmers and various ag groups, private property owners, water districts and other entities across the country.



GRANTHAM GRANGE

by : Joyce Hood

More than 40 Grantham Grange members helped conduct a county-wide fundraiser on March 25 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. The event was organized to raise money for the families of Sgt. Matthew Fishman, Sgt. Logan Cox, and Detective Ramon Torres. These law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty last summer. Sgt. Fishman lost his life.

Grange members helped in a wide variety of ways which included selling tickets for the meal and raffle, cleaning potatoes, making slaw, rolling out dough for the apple jacks, preparing plates, helping the drive-thru line, and assisting with the live auction.

Grantham Grangers are known as being the hushpuppy makers at most community benefits and fundraisers. We furnish all supplies, mix the dough, and fry them. Our members also worked to prepare those for the fundraiser's meal.

As of this date, over \$107,000 has been raised to support these families. We would like to thank everyone for their support with this fundraiser. Many of you purchased raffle tickets and made donations at the Family Conference. We appreciate your support.



VILLEWORTH GRANGE

by : Jessica Horton

Villeworth Grange met in late February to begin working on our annual summer garden. We planted three varieties of tomatoes, okra, peppers, and lettuce. We are excited to see the garden take shape this year.

Villeworth Grange operates a community garden in downtown Huntersville on land leased from First Baptist Church.

FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

For our February program, Ferguson Grange welcomed Matthew Clay, new Wilkes County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent. Clay shared information on gardening and soil testing. Several Grange members in the community are also active Extension Master Gardeners.



NORTH CAROLINA Soil Health Coalition



To enhance soil health in North Carolina through farmer-driven education and networking.



Most farmers would agree that it's difficult and costly to produce a quality crop or healthy livestock in an area with poor quality soil. Farming in soil that has been degraded makes the complex job of raising healthy animals and crops even more difficult. Fortunately, there are steps farmers can take to improve the soil and increase profitability by reducing input costs and making their farms more resilient to adverse events, like extreme weather. These steps include increasing the diversity of plant and animal species, using cover crops to increase the period of time plants are actively growing, and protecting the soil with crop residues or growing plants. These activities all work to improve soil health. Soil health has many definitions, but it generally speaks to the ability of the soil to support a healthy ecosystem, including the abundant microbial life within the soil that improves soil structure, nutrient cycling, and water retention.

A new group, the North Carolina Soil Health Coalition, is a farmer-led, nonprofit organization that provides education, mentorship, and support among North Carolina's farmers to foster the adoption of practices that build soil health. The Coalition's mission is to enhance soil health in North Carolina through farmer-driven education and networking.

The Coalition was founded in 2022 by a group of farmers from across North Carolina. Their goal was to connect farmers who are interested in restoring and protecting the soil on their farms. They believe that the best way to implement practices that benefit soil health is by learning from other farmers who have successfully used those practices and learned from past mistakes. Farmers also have first-hand knowledge about the soil health-related resources that are currently lacking in North Carolina that the Coalition can develop and address.

One of the founding members of the Coalition, Ben Cauthen, is a past member of St. John's Grange in Mt. Pleasant, NC. Ben enjoys visiting with long-time St. John's Grange member and Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District Board member Louis Suther at his farm. Louis has implemented practices to protect and build the soil on his farm for many years, including rotational grazing, planting warm and cool



season annuals in his pastures for supplemental forage, and using composted chicken litter as a soil amendment. Ben has learned many lessons from Louis that he is now using to improve the pastures and hayfields on his family's farm just up the road from Louis's farm.

Ben no longer lives in Mt. Pleasant, but his family is still very active in St. John's Grange activities. At their March meeting, St. John's invited Brad Ross of Southern Outdoors (a farm store located in Richfield, NC) to speak about rotational grazing and fencing supplies available to farmers. He shared the best practices for using electric fencing for rotational grazing and the importance of rotating livestock to improve forage quality and allow areas of pasture to recover from grazing. This benefits the health of both the soil and livestock long-term.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the NC Soil Health Coalition to learn more about restoring the soil on your farm? Complete the membership application form by scanning the QR Code below or by visiting the Coalition's website at ncsoilhealth.org. By becoming a member, you will receive meeting and field day invitations,



newsletters, updates from the Board of Directors, and access to member-only resources. There is no cost for membership in 2023. A wealth of knowledge exists among North Carolina's farmers about how to practically implement soil health practices. The Coalition is bringing together those farmers to develop and share resources to make everyone more successful.

For more information contact the Coalition at info@ncsoilhealth.org.

"To enhance soil health in North Carolina through farmer-driven education and networking." www.ncsoilhealth.org, accessed 4/11/23, provided by Ben Cauthen





Family Conference 2023

by : Jessica Horton

Grangers from as far west as Hendersonville traveled to Kitty Hawk, the site of the 2023 Family Conference, March 16-19. This year, the conference fell over St. Patrick's Day, so we used this annual celebration as theme for the weekend.

Grangers gathered together for a fun evening of getting acquainted games hosted by NC Grange Program Director, Bobbi Dellinger of Corriher Grange. She had Grangers humming to figure out songs and laughing!

Friday morning brought a full slate of speakers. The opening speaker was Senator Bobby Hanig. Senator Hanig resides in Currituck County, and represents District 1 which includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties. He spoke about his broken childhood, moving around a lot and the many people that helped to influenced the many moves his family made. He encouraged members to be willing to walk through doors when they open.



The next speaker was Chris Budnick, Executive Director of Healing Transitions. Chris has been working in the addiction treatment and recovery field since 1993. He spoke about the folks they help, the great needs they are facing, and what their hopes for the future include. Their program primarily serves Wake County, but often have partnerships outside the area.

Robin Tutor Marcum was the final speaker of the morning. Robin directs the NC AgroMedicine Institute with university partners including East Carolina, NC State, and NC A&T. The institute works with organizations to address the health and safety of farmers and their families. She spoke about the mental health crisis she sees so many farm families dealing with.

Grangers were then free to explore the beautiful Outer Banks that afternoon before returning back to the hotel for a St. Patrick's Day themed evening. Folks were encouraged to wear their green best and silliest and were provided with shamrock themed accessories. Many yummy treats were also provided with hints of green! The evening concluded with rounds of trivia for all ages to participate.

Saturday morning, Grangers were introduced to two more engaging speakers starting with Robert Elliott, director and founder of The Veteran's Farm of NC. Located in Sanford, the farm is a place where veterans can learn hands-on farming skills in all facets of agriculture. They have made great strides in development since the land was purchased in 2021 and will continue to do great things!

"People need to be around other people, plants and animals."

-Jason Davis

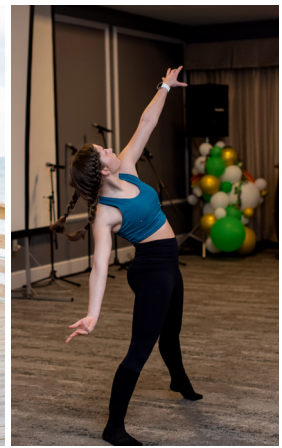


Our final speaker of the weekend was Jason Davis, Assistant Dean of the University of Mount Olive. Jason gave a fascinating presentation about different generations, how they communicate and what they are interested in. This gave members much insight on how to reach folks of certain demographics and how to retain their interests. Following the speakers, Grangers were invited to watch a video developed by the Pork Council about the lawsuit of a specific operation associated with Smithfield Farms. It was an eye-opening film about how one particular hog farm was treated right here in North Carolina.

Grangers enjoyed another afternoon of free time to explore the local scenery before regrouping for dinner on the Kitty Hawk Pier. After dinner, attendees enjoyed playing Bingo and watching the annual Talent Show. Ryleigh Hartsell, St. John's Grange, is the winner of this year's talent contest. She will travel to Niagra Falls, New York this November to show off her dancing skills at the National Grange Convention's Evening of Excellence.

Sunday morning concluded with a worship service led by NC Grange Chaplain LaRue Tart of Grantham Grange. Included in the worship was a gospel performance by *Encore*, a group of Grangers from Brogden Grange.

A successful weekend of fellowship, playing Phase 10 cards, and relaxation with million dollar oceanfront views is just what the doctor ordered to kick off a great year.



2023 SALES AWARDS PRESENTED

GOTCHA COVERED
by : Mark Davis

The NC Grange has received the results of the 2023 Open Enrollment for new BlueCross BlueShield members generated by our Grange Agents. We are pleased to announce the production award recipients for the open enrollment period for both Under65 Individual Members as well as Medicare Segment Members. These individuals have done an outstanding job servicing their clients and the NC Grange! We congratulate the following agents on their hard work and success:

Under65 Segment

Overall, these top 10 agents ended up enrolling 421 new members, representing 51% of our total Under65 sales.

Agent Location Total New Members	
	Alicia Lewis Murphy 27
Charles Roper, Jr Hendersonville 100	Clint Blackburn Stokesdale 26
Angel Lawing Rockford 61	Shanna Bell North Wilkesboro 23
Kimberly Austin Monroe 44	<u>Honorable Mentions:</u> Beverly Mitchell Burnsville 19
Charles Pruden Edenton 40	Charlie Alessi Hendersonville 19
Michael Alessi Hendersonville 35	Chase McKelvey Brevard 17
Patrick McBrayer Southern Pines 35	Timothy Smith Mt Olive 17
Sandra Matthews Pilot Mountain 30	Jessica Isley Reidsville 17

Medicare Market Segment:

These top ten agents ended up producing a total of 217 new Medicare members, representing 67% of our total Medicare sales for the January 2023 effective dates.

Agent Location Total New Members	
	Fred Tulloss Rocky Mount 12
	Donna Thompson Fuquay 12
	Patrick McBrayer Southern Pines 11
	<u>Honorable Mentions:</u> Timothy Smith Mt Olive 9
	Chip Pruden Edenton 9
	Chase McKelvey Brevard 8
	Charlie Alessi Hendersonville 8
	J. Crayton Kale Lincolnton 7
Kenneth Ennis Coates 49	
Michele Smith Durham 28	
Kimberly Austin Monroe 28	
Sandra Barnes Rockford 18	
Troy McAbee Marion 17	
Gus Tulloss Rocky Mount 14	
Beverly Mitchell Burnsville 13	

The effective dates for our next production awards quarter will be March 1 to May 1. For this quarter, we will award the top five producers for each segment. To participate in the rewards program, the agent must be a current member of a local Grange chapter or an associate member on the state level and produce a minimum of six new lives within that quarter.

Once again, I want to give a huge thank you to all our NC Grange Agents for a job well done! They make our NCSG/BCBSNC program a success. When you see one of our agents, please be sure to thank them as well!

Growing Leaders at Winter Youth Conference

by : Jennie Gentry

Youth from across the state gathered February 10-12 for an amazing weekend together at our annual Winter Youth Conference. Held at the beautiful Camp Caraway near Asheboro, youth participated in the retreat to learn about themselves, grow as leaders, and spend time with friends. It is always one of our favorite events of the year that brings much fun, laughter, and inspiration for those who attend.

During the conference, youth participated in workshops and team building sessions that focused on leadership development. This included activities to help them with conflict resolution, decision making, self-awareness, and recognizing positive leadership traits. They also assembled pollinator seed packets for a service project and enjoyed games and free time to connect with friends.

State Contests were held on Saturday afternoon of the conference. Asheton Medlin of Bushy Fork Grange won first place in the Public Speaking Contest. Asheton Medlin and Taylor Rogers, Camp Grange, won first place in the Group Sign-a-Song Contest. These winners will compete in these contests at the Regional Conference in August for a chance to compete at the National Grange Convention this year. Thirteen youth competed in our annual Impromptu Speech Contest, which is always a fun event. Winning first place was Taylor Rogers with Carter Settle placing second and Asheton Medlin placing third. All participants did an incredible job, and we love how this contest builds confidence in youth.



Joining us for the weekend were State FFA Officers Izzy Fanning-Wilson and Belle Merlo. They participated in activities with our youth, led a leadership activity, and helped judge our public speaking contests. They were an excellent representation of FFA, and we are very grateful that they were able to attend.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held. Asheton Medlin of Bushy Fork Grange was elected the 2023 State Grange Youth President, and Jacob Roquet of Cape Fear Grange was elected the State Youth Vice President. A full list of officers can be found in this edition of *Grange News*.

Throughout the weekend, the State Youth Committee conducted interviews with Youth Team and Ambassador applicants to select the Youth Leadership Team for the year. This is always an especially difficult decision because of the amazing candidates that try out for this team each year. In a special ceremony on Saturday evening, the new Youth Leadership Team was announced. This year's team members are Karly Denning, Grantham Grange; Abby Gentry, Bushy Fork Grange; Taylor Rogers, Camp Grange; and Carter Settle, Little Mountain Grange. Also on the team are Asheton Medlin, Bushy Fork Grange, and Jacob Roquet, Cape Fear Grange, who will be serving as our State Youth Ambassadors this year. Ashley Holloman of Southern Wake Grange was selected to serve as our Young Adult Ambassador this year. These leaders accepted their positions with much excitement, ready to serve the Grange through this wonderful opportunity.

Saturday evening's festivities included a Pajama Party where youth enjoyed dancing, games, and smores by the campfire in their pajamas. Youth were very creative wearing pajama pants, onesies, and matching pajama sets with others. Before ending the night with a moving vesper by Baylor Howerton, a special activity was held to inspire our youth. Every person had a sheet of paper with their picture on it, all of which were set out among tables around the room. Everyone signed personal messages and positive affirmations on every sheet for youth to take home with them as a reminder of how amazing and loved they are. It was an incredible night to close an awesome weekend together.

Youth departed Sunday morning after our traditional friendship circle. It was a wonderful, inspiring weekend, and much

appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible, who also enjoy encouraging and inspiring our youth. Our organization is proud to have such a wonderful, unique program for young people.

Youth Team

Ambassadors:	Asheton Medlin, Bushy Fork Grange Jacob Roquet, Cape Fear Grange
Youth Team:	Karly Denning, Grantham Grange Abby Gentry, Bushy Fork Grange Taylor Rogers, Camp Grange Carter Settle, Little Mountain Grange

State Youth Officers

President:	Asheton Medlin, Bushy Fork Grange
Vice President:	Jacob Roquet, Cape Fear Grange
Program Director:	Carter Settle, Little Mountain Grange
Steward:	Karly Denning, Grantham Grange
Assistant Steward:	Clayton Cameron, Juniper Grange
Lady Assistant Steward:	Abby Gentry, Bushy Fork Grange
Chaplain:	Taylor Rogers, Camp Grange
Treasurer:	Carson Lackey, Camp Grange
Secretary:	Caroline Barber, Bushy Fork Grange
Gatekeeper:	Jaiden McDougald, Camp Grange
Ceres:	Makenna Seymour, St. John's Grange
Pomona:	Lillie Spratling, St. John's Grange
Flora:	Mackenzie Riggs, Camp Grange
Executive Committee:	Sullivan Bray, Old Richmond Grange Cade Howerton, Bushy Fork Grange Will Larrabee, Old Richmond Grange Blythe Marshall, Camp Grange Kayla Laws, Bushy Fork Grange





North Carolina Grange
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PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
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*See you this July at
Grange Camp!*

REGISTER AT NCGRANGE.COM