

The official publication of the NC Grange

December 2020

GRANGE NEWS



contents

3	A Note From Jimmy NC State Grange President
4	Opioid Crisis
6	Gentry Receives Award
7	Christmas Wreaths
8	Capitol News
10	Brogden & Grantham Project
11	Agriculture Resilience
12	Gotcha Covered
13	Community Service
14	National Publicity Award Ferguson Project
15	Chaplain's Corner

STATE OFFICERS

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Program Director	Bobbie Dellinger
Steward	Jimmy Martin
Assistant Steward	Wayne Stack
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Jerry Snyder
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Greeter	Philip Duncan
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
Flora	Janice Wilcox

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Robert Cayton
Vice Chairman	David Allen Vinnie Duncan Jimmy Barefoot John Crawford Raymond Hayes, II

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Emeritus	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	Sharon Underwood
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 & 25	Christmas / Office Closed
January 1	Office Closed
July 4-10	Grange Camp

Cover: First Baptist Church of Huntersville

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

The recently conducted National Grange Convention was held virtually during two days in November. It was certainly a different kind of convention. The basic needs were carried out including action on resolutions, the budget, election of officers, and a memorial service. The committee work had been completed prior to the convention which helped to streamline the process. A new report was also accepted from a Diversity Committee appointed by the National President, Betsy Huber, that included one of our members from North Carolina, Raymond Hayes. The convention went well considering that it was the first time it has been done in this fashion. Two National Grange Board seats were up for re-election. Both Leroy Watson from New Hampshire and Susan Noah from Oregon were re-elected to another term. The convention for next year is scheduled to be in Wichita, Kansas.

NC Grange sent three resolutions to the National Convention for consideration and all three passed. The first resolution, entitled "Senior Care During Pandemic," was submitted from Capitol Grange. This resolution requests a more comprehensive plan for assisting senior citizens during times of health emergencies. The second resolution, titled "Pandemic Preparedness," was also submitted from Capitol Grange. This resolution calls for a plan of action to prevent and control future pandemics. The

third resolution was titled "Supporting the US Postal Service" and was submitted from Westbrook Grange. This resolution requests the US Government to provide supplemental funding for the postal service.

We all are weary of being limited because of the Covid outbreak, and it remains true for meetings. Conducting meetings by computer is nothing new and has been used in the business world for quite some time. These types of meetings save time, travel, and expense. But there is still something to be said for meeting face to face. Since the pandemic started, I have heard it expressed many times over how much we miss seeing each other. Meeting in person not only helps to enhance communications but also helps to build relationships, and face to face meetings are a lot more fun! I look forward to getting beyond the virus and returning to a time when we can simply visit each other again.



RECOVERY CAN'T WAIT

by: Jennie Gentry

NC GRANGE DONATES TO HEALING TRANSITIONS

Several years ago, I was suffering from back and neck pain after a fall. I needed a doctor and decided to start with an orthopedist. After an exam and x-rays, the doctor shared the results. He could not find a single thing wrong. Then, in a very rude and sarcastic tone, he stated, "Well, I guess I can call it a 'neck sprain' and give you this since we both know what you're really here for," while he scribbled a prescription for Oxycodone and shoved it to me. I was completely shocked and appalled. I took the prescription, tore it up, handed it back at him and walked out. I was upset by that doctor's quick, wrong judgment of me. While I know that most doctors are not like him, I was surprised at how easy it was to get that prescription.

Opioid addiction has become a crisis for our state and nation. According to the National Institute on Drug Addiction, in North Carolina, an estimated 79% of drug overdose deaths involved opioids in 2018. North Carolina medical providers wrote 61.5 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons compared to the average U.S. rate of 51.4 prescriptions (NIDA, 2020). *More Powerful NC* states on their website that more people die from opioid overdoses in our state than car crashes (MPNC, 2020).

A few months after my incident with the doctor, a dear friend of mine passed away from a drug overdose. It absolutely devastated me. As someone who has had a front row seat to watching a few close friends battle pill and alcohol addiction, I was happy and proud when the NC Grange decided to assist with fighting the crisis by supporting Healing Transitions.

Located in Raleigh, Healing Transitions is a place of recovery where those suffering with addictions to alcohol and drugs can retreat to overcome their battles with addiction. This includes a long-term recovery program, a non-medical detox,

and an overnight emergency shelter. The mission of Healing Transitions is to offer peer-based, recovery-oriented services to the individuals that seek their help. They turn no one away, and their program is designed to renew a person's desire to return to a meaningful and productive life.

In 2015, through Grange member Barden Culbreth, the NC Grange started a new partnership with Randolph Cloud and Associates, a lobbying firm that works on health-related issues. As a result of this partnership, three different grants have been attained from Pharma to support Healing Transitions. This most recent grant in the amount of \$1,500 was matched by the NC Grange and a check for \$3,000 was presented to the facility in November by Laurie Barnhart, Legislative Director for NC Grange.

Healing Transitions is unique. It is a long-term recovery facility and most importantly, clients can come free of charge. Residents can stay for many months after detoxing to engage in several levels of recovery. First are classes and 12-step recovery meetings. In the next track, fully committed residents will stay longer and become responsible for the daily operations of the facility such as cleaning and tending to the gardens. They develop peer accountability, continue recovery sessions, and complete job readiness and life skills classes. After this track, residents focus on obtaining outside employment and housing as they establish a plan to transition into the community. Finally, alumni can visit the facility to offer peer support and even teach classes.



**RECOVERY
CAN'T WAIT**
a capital campaign for
Healing Transitions



Last year, Jimmy and Anita Gentry, along with Jeff and Laurie Barnhart, toured Healing Transitions with NC Senator Jim Burgin, who is also a member of NC Grange. Jeff Barnhart, Capitol Grange member, lobbies pro bono for Healing Transitions, and Laurie Barnhart has lobbied the NC General Assembly for appropriations for Healing Transitions as well. They walked through the different recovery tracks that residents can participate in, witnessed the detox area, and saw every aspect of the innovative program. When asked about the tour, Anita Gentry commented, "I was extremely impressed with the level of care the residents receive." Their tour guide was a resident who had completed the program at Healing Transitions. He was very passionate about the services that are provided and the positive impact the program makes.

One thing that stands out about Healing Transitions is its goal to never define people by their problems, but to see the people behind the problems. They re-install hope in those seeking healing, which is completely evident when you see the testimonials of people who have changed their lives by entering Healing Transition's doors. One such story is that of Courtni, who started drinking at age 14. When she was 19, she was the mother of a three-year-old son and started abusing prescription medication. She can remember the negative changes that her pill addiction created in her family, especially her son. Courtni reflected, "He [her son] went from being a very happy, outgoing little boy to a very quiet, reserved one. When I crossed that line and turned into a different person, I saw him cross that line and turn into a different child."

In her testimonial, Courtni continues, "A year before I came to Healing Transitions, I literally lost everything. In just one week, I lost my mom, my house, and was in the process of losing my kids. I didn't want to live anymore but I was too afraid to die. That's when I knew I needed help." After 16 months at Healing Transitions, Courtni's life has changed for the better. The program not only assists people to battle their addictions, but also offers family services. Today, Courtni continues her sobriety. She has a job, rents a home, is engaged to be married, and lives with her beautiful children who are living healthy, happier lives.

Courtni is just one of many who have benefited from Healing Transitions. When I read the testimonials and see the amazing things that Healing Transitions is doing, it feels good to see the Grange assisting such an important cause. Partnerships like this and increased education by groups all over the nation have really shed light on the drug epidemic. Today, doctors are writing fewer opioid prescriptions, and it is rare to run into situations like I did with that orthopedist years ago. However, the crisis is still ever present. In fact, studies are showing that opioid overdoses have increased since the Covid-19 pandemic started. In an article recently published by Medical Economics, one expert stated that opioid addiction is being exacerbated because of stress, isolation, and financial hardship associated with the pandemic (Shyrock, 2020).

With the pandemic taking over the news, it is even more important that we stand up and continue supporting the work being done to help those suffering from substance addictions. Drug and alcohol addiction does not discriminate. It affects all ages, races, genders, and nationalities. Addiction does not care what kind of job you have or how much money you make. It can hit anyone. When the NC Grange stands up against addiction and supports an amazing place like Healing Transitions, it makes me even more proud to be a member!

For more information on Healing Transitions and to read more inspiring success stories, visit their website at www.healing-transitions.org.

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). (April 3, 2020.) North Carolina: Opioid-Involved Deaths and Related Harms. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/north-carolina-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>
- More Powerful NC (MPNC). (2020.) How Have Opioids Affected North Carolina? <https://www.morepowerfulnc.org/get-the-facts/the0impact/>
- Shyrock, Todd. (November 9, 2020). What Happened to the Opioid Crisis? Medical Economics. <https://www.medicaleconomics.com/view/what-happened-to-the-opioid-crisis->



Gentry Named 2020 CALS Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

by: Jennie Gentry

North Carolina State University held its annual *Evening With The Stars Gala* on November 14 to celebrate alumni from across the globe. During the time-honored event, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences named Jimmy Gentry, State Grange President, as a 2020 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Organized by the NCSU Alumni Association, the formal gala is a tradition that dates back to the early 1940s to celebrate winners of the College Distinguished Alumni Awards and special Alumni Association Awards.

In his remarks, Gentry commented on how difficult it can be for college-aged students to firmly know what they want to do for the rest of their lives, but they should continue to search for the career(s) that fulfill their lives. He stated, "Graduating from NC State is not an ending, but a beginning and our young people should continue to make the adjustments necessary to find that fulfilling career."

After graduating from NCSU, Gentry began his career teaching agriculture and horticulture at West Montgomery High School before moving to Statesville to teach ag and

become an FFA Advisor at South Iredell High School. He eventually earned his Master's Degree in Agricultural Education, followed by certification in



educational administration, becoming a high school assistant principal. He retired as Principal of Union Grove Elementary School before taking on the position as NC Grange President in 2003.

Gentry currently serves in several capacities at NC State including the Ag Foundation Board, the Tobacco Foundation Board, the Dairy Foundation Board as well as the Advisory Committee for the Agricultural Leadership Program. NC Grange has been a long-time financial supporter of 4-H and FFA and serves as the signature sponsor of the Extension Search for Excellence Award Program. In addition, NC Grange has provided support for the new Plant Sciences Initiative at NC State in which the new building is currently under construction.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was premiered online through a video format. Recipients were highlighted in pre-recorded interviews that ended with a confetti celebration. As part of the program, awards were shipped to the winners and the university sent their families catered meals from local restaurants in their areas to celebrate the evening. University staff stated that they hope to honor the 2020 Outstanding Alumni at the 2021 gala. You can watch the event and see a full list of award winners at <https://alumni.ncsu.edu/evening-of-stars-award-recipients/>.

COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
ACADEMICS ▲ RESEARCH ▲ EXTENSION



Community Wreaths

by: Jessica Horton

Twenty years ago, I had a wreath-making table set up on my parent's back deck. This November, I found myself back at it. My father owned Piedmont Feed and Garden Center just west of Chapel Hill where we sold Christmas trees during the holidays. At some point, my dad realized how much waste was happening when the trees were trimmed for customers, and they began making and selling wreaths from the cuttings.

Being a creative, able-bodied, free-labor teenager, it quickly became my job. I had the luxury of working inside the greenhouse at the store sometimes, but Dad eventually bought me my own table to work on our back deck after school.

In 2018, our church, First Baptist Church of Huntersville, started selling Christmas trees as a church fundraiser. In 2018 & 2019, my husband Jeremy and I went and picked a tree, and I grimaced as they cut the bottom branches off each tree they sold, and placed them in the burn pile. They were literally burning money.

This summer, during a church meeting, I broke my silence about my wreath-making past. Instantly, I became Wreath Captain. Jeremy and I offered to purchase the clamp mechanism for the table, and another member built the table from scraps in his garage. The church purchased metal wreath forms in three different sizes: 16, 24 and 36 inches.

The Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, a team ventured to Boone, North Carolina, to pick up our Fraiser Fir

order of 125 trees.

With some coordination, members donated ribbon, hand-tied bows, pinecones, cedar, holly and pine branches! I recruited three other girls from church to learn. The lot was open just over a week. We made 80 wreaths from the cuttings and sales were close to \$2,000!

North Carolina is second in the country in the Christmas Tree industry. Our state has approximately 1,300 growers on an estimated 40,000 acres. North Carolina also produces 20% of the Christmas trees in the United States.

Next year, we hope to offer pre-sales, custom orders and more sizes available for purchase. It has been wonderful to share a skill that benefits a North Carolina farmer and the community of



Pictured left to right: Rachel Hoppe, Andrea Swanick, Candice Klein, Jessica Horton working the night before Thanksgiving

CAPITOL NEWS

by: Laurie Barnhart

As predicted, the 2020 election was extremely dramatic as well as open-ended with races all across the country calling for recounts. As of December 9, the NC Supreme Court Chief Justice race is headed for a second recount. Justice Paul Newby is leading incumbent Justice Cheri Beasley by just 401 votes. The final recounts will probably not be completed until the third week of December.

In the NC General Assembly, the House Republican Caucus met and elected their leadership for the 2021-22 session, re-electing Speaker Tim Moore for his fourth term as Speaker. Rep. Sarah Stevens will continue as Speaker Pro Tempore; Rep. John Bell will serve as Deputy Majority Leader; Rep. Brenden Jones will serve as Conference Leader; Rep. John Szoka will serve as Conference Leader; Rep. Jon Hardister will serve as Majority Whip; and Rep. Pat Hurley will serve as Joint Conference Leader. House Democrats have not announced who will fill the House Minority Leader position as Rep. Darren Jackson steps down, nor has the Senate announced any changes in leadership currently.

In North Carolina, the voter turnout increased 5.58% over 2016. Following is a breakdown of voter turnout in NC as well as the election percentages for the US Congress and Council of State. Statistics were provided by McGuire Woods.

NC VOTER TURNOUT

- 5,545,859 voters
- 75.4% of registered voters cast a ballot
- 4,629,200 voted early
- 916,659 voted on Election Day

ELECTION RESULTS

US PRESIDENT (NC Voters)

- President Donald Trump (R), INCUMBENT, 49.98%
- Former Vice President Joe Biden (D) 48.57%

US SENATE

- Thom Tillis (R), INCUMBENT, 48.73%
- Cal Cunningham (D), 46.94%

US HOUSE

DISTRICT 1:

- G.K. Butterfield (D), INCUMBENT – 54.14%
- Sandy Smith (R) – 45.82%

DISTRICT 2:

- Deborah Ross (D) – 62.96%
- Alan Swain (R) – 34.83%

DISTRICT 3:

- Greg Murphy (R), INCUMBENT – 63.38%
- Daryl Farrow (D) – 34.83%

DISTRICT 4:

- David Price (D), INCUMBENT – 67.33%
- Robert Thomas (R) – 32.67%

DISTRICT 5:

- Virginia Foxx (R), INCUMBENT – 67.02%
- David Brown (D) – 31.04%

DISTRICT 6:

- Kathy Manning (D) – 62.26%
- Lee Haywood (R) – 37.74%

DISTRICT 7:

- David Rouzer (R), INCUMBENT – 60.35%
- Christopher Ward (D) – 39.50%

DISTRICT 8:

- Richard Hudson (R), INCUMBENT – 53.35%
- Patricia Timmons-Goodson (D) – 46.65%

DISTRICT 9:

- Dan Bishop (R), INCUMBENT – 55.57%
- Cynthia Wallace (D) – 44.43%

DISTRICT 10:

- Patrick McHenry (R)- INCUMBENT – 68.97%
- David Parker (D) – 31.03%

DISTRICT 11:

- Madison Cawthorn (R) – 54.52%
- Moe Davis (D) – 42.36%

DISTRICT 12:

- Alma Adams (D), INCUMBENT – 100%

DISTRICT 13:

- Ted Budd (R), INCUMBENT- 68.26%
- Scott Huffman (D) – 31.4%

Demographic Breakdown of the NC General Assembly

NC HOUSE: Republican Majority

- 120 members
- Republicans: 69, net gain of 4 seats
- Democrats: 51, net loss of 4 seats
- New Members: 17
- 72 votes needed for override

NC SENATE: Republican Majority

- 50 members
- Republicans: 28, net loss of 1 seat



- Democrats: 22, net gain of 1 seat
- New Members: 7
- 30 votes needed for override

NC COUNCIL OF STATE RACES

GOVERNOR:

- Roy Cooper (D), INCUMBENT, 51.52%
- Dan Forest (R), 47.06%

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

- Mark Robinson (R), 51.63%
- Yvonne Lewis Holley (D), 48.34%

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

- Josh Stein (D), INCUMBENT – 50.10%
- Jim O'Neill (R) – 49.90%

STATE AUDITOR:

- Beth Wood (D), INCUMBENT – 50.88%
- Anthony Wayne Street (R) – 49.15%

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE:

- Steve Troxler (R), INCUMBENT – 53.86%
- Jenna Wadsworth (D) – 46.11%

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE:

- Mike Causey (R), INCUMBENT – 51.76%
- Wayne Goodwin (D) – 48.22%

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR:

- Josh Stein (R) – 50.85%
- Jessica Holmes (D) – 49.14%

SECRETARY OF STATE:

- Elaine Marshall (D), INCUMBENT – 51.16%
- E.C. Sykes (R) – 48.86%

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Catherine Truitt (R) – 51.38%
- Jen Mangrum (D) – 48.60%

TREASURER:

- Dale Folwell (R), INCUMBENT – 52.58%
- Ronnie Chatterji (D) – 47.40%

To date, the Presidential race has not been officially announced although there is little doubt that Joe Biden will be the next US President. On January 5, there will be twin runoffs in Georgia between the two Republican US Senators and two Democratic challengers. These two races will determine who controls the US Senate.

BROGDEN & GRANTHAM GRANGES CONDUCT FUNDRAISER

by: Jimmy Gentry

Two of our local Granges in Wayne County, Brogden and Grantham, are conducting a fundraiser for the North Carolina Highway Patrol Association Caisson Unit. This Unit provides an important service to fallen officers and notable people by providing transport during funerals. It is a very dignified way to honor those individuals. The equipment and horses are located in Wayne County on a farm operated by Bennie Grady who works with the highway patrol. Due to past NC Grange support, our logo is included on their traveling horse trailer. This Caisson Unit also serves the surrounding states adjoining North Carolina.

The fundraising effort is to crowdfund a large number of donors by giving one dollar each, with a goal to raise \$50,000.00. However, donors are not limited to one dollar. If anyone would like to contribute, checks should be made payable to NCTA Caisson Unit and mailed to Grantham Grange, PO Box 133, Goldsboro, NC 27533.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADERS

Favorite Season?

ALL OF THEM! - EMILY HARTSELL

WINTER - DEBRA CAYTON

FALL - ROBERT CAYTON

AUTUMN - DAVID ALLEN

SPRING - BOBBIE DELLINGER

FALL - CRYSTAL ALLEN

SPRING - VINNIE DUNCAN

SUMMER - JESSICA HORTON

AUTUMN - JANICE WILCOX

FALL - JIMMY MARTIN

WINTER - RAYMOND HAYES

WINTER - KATIE GREENE

FALL - NED HUDSON

SPRING - DIANNE HUDSON

SPRING - CHARLES FORRESTER

FALL - JENNIE GENTRY

SUMMER - JIMMY GENTRY

SPRING - LAURIE BARNHART

WHAT IS AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE ANYWAY?

Hey, Fellow Grangers! If you follow any of the news, radio, or social media groups that talk about agriculture, you have probably heard talk about “agriculture resilience.” Well, what is that anyway? I don’t have all the answers and it means different things to different people, but here is what I have learned. Agriculture Resilience, at the farm level, is how a farm family adapts to changes, specifically around climate change, and how they can seize opportunities to improve their bottom line.

For example, the Agriculture Resilient Farmer is farming in a way that reduces physical and financial damage from flooding events and can recover from any damages more quickly than their neighbors. I know a farmer in Stanly County that was able to get his equipment back out in the field after Hurricane Florence two months faster than his neighbor. Why? Well, because he has used the conservation practices of cover crops and no-tillage for years. His soil is more “spongy” and can “bounce-back” quicker from a significant flooding event. In other words, he has built up his soil health.

Agriculture resilience also includes things we have known for years and teach our kids to do. Save a little money for that “rainy” day. Have some resources saved back in case we end up in a trade war with China. Diversify your crops so

your whole operation isn’t wiped out by that next pest infestation. “Fun fact” of climate change, as the nights grow warmer, we will see a greater number of pests and newer pests that used to die off over the winter months. So, a lot of challenges are facing agriculture, nothing new there. The one thing a farmer can’t control is the weather, but he can prepare for more unpredictable weather.

But what does this mean for our communities and North Carolina? The nonprofit I work for, the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, is exploring that question right now. We took a trip to Iowa to learn about

how the town of Cedar Rapids is using federal disaster relief dollars from FEMA to install conservation practices on farms upstream that will hold back flood waters, so the downstream neighbors have less flood waters to deal with. Check out the Iowa Watershed Approach to learn more. By next summer, we, with our university and Farm Bureau partners, will report back to the General Assembly on ways that our farmland and forests (working lands) can be part of the solution to climate change.

The Foundation is also testing out some ideas around Carbon Farm Planning. Did you know that carbon drives the whole plant growth process? The more carbon you can cycle through your farming system, the less inputs you need. Less inputs means more money in the farmers’ pockets. This idea is also called Soil Health and can be implemented through a specific set of conservation practices. Nationally there is a lot of discussion about ecosystem services, more specifically carbon sequestration. The main idea is that our farms

and forests give our communities the clean air and water we all depend on, and they do it for free. Is there a way for farmers to diversify their streams to include payments for the public good of clean air and water? Yes, through ecosystem service payments.

Those are two big ideas, Carbon Farm Planning and Flood Mitigation through Conservation, both of which are part of the Agriculture Resilience concept. I skipped a lot of details; some details I know and some details I know to point to a smarter person than me. But these ideas work, and they help support our farm families. North Carolina can be an example to the other southeastern states by using the tools of Agriculture Resilience and protect our farm economy. If you want to talk more, let me know!

Michelle Lovejoy
Capitol Grange President



GOTCHA COVERED

WHAT DO WE NEED?

by: Mark Davis



Our son and his wife are in the beginning stages of building a house on our farm. A few weeks back, after many months of various delays, the excavation contractor delivered their equipment to dig the basement and footings. When we saw their equipment, Jay and I both began to question if they had enough horse power to handle the task because we knew there was some rock to hinder their process. Jay told me that morning to have the backup plan ready to implement – just in case. After a day of digging and scraping with a mini excavator and track steer loader, they managed to get about two to three feet down in spots, but they needed at least seven feet. They wanted to regroup and bring in a jackhammer to bust the rest of the way down and remove the broken rock with their existing equipment. They anticipated completing this excavation in one day which was now becoming a week-long project.

We have a neighbor who ran heavy equipment all his life, so I asked him to come over for his opinion. He looked and he said he had dug another neighbor's basement with much harder rock than what was on Jay and Jackie's lot. He had a "finger" designed for stumping and rock busting that he could put on another neighbor's 80 ton excavator, and he was sure that would do the job of busting up the rock. Then another friend who owns

a grading business would come with their excavator to remove the busted rock and finish cleaning out the basement for the footings and basement floor. With that, plan "B" was implemented. The heavy excavator moved in on a Friday afternoon, and the neighbor said he just wanted to try it a bit to see how it worked. Within twenty minutes of the unloading, the whole basement was busted out. It looked like the rocks were multiplying like rabbits. Many of the neighbors thought we were starting a rock quarry due to the amount of rocks on the ground. The second excavator arrived on Tuesday, and shortly there after, we had the required depth for the contractor. Most of the rock had disappeared under the dirt removed from the basement area, creating an expanded side and back yard.

Now that the basement is dug, the grading contractor has recommended that the backfill wall be completed slowly with the track steer loader. Otherwise, the loose rock could abruptly shift and crash into the basement block wall creating too much pressure on it or possibly even knocking it down. The track steer would move smaller loads and better fill around the loosened rock to lock them back in place for further compaction.

This situation reminded me of an example that I often use with agents and clients

when they ask me which insurance plan is best. I ask them, "Which screwdriver is best, a Phillips head or a flat head? It all depends on what kind of screw you are working with." Just as with Jay's excavation or my screwdriver example, before we can make a recommendation of insurance plans, we need all the facts as well as how to anticipate using the insurance proceeds. This is applicable to all types of insurance.

For example, let's look at Life Insurance. Life insurance can have many purposes so we ask these questions: What are your intentions for the claim proceeds? Is it to pay off short term debt or final expenses? Is it to pay living expenses for a spouse and minor children? Are you wanting to fund either a child or grandchildren's college expenses? Life insurance can also be used to create an inheritance for final gift to a charity legacy. In these examples alone, you can see some thought and planning must be employed in your insurance plan design to accomplish your intended goals.

This is where your NC State Grange Agent can assist you in guiding you to the proper plan design and company. Give us a call today, and we will be glad to assist in every way possible.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Sharon Underwood

Greetings, NC Grange members! I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well and safe during this pandemic. Though it is difficult for our local Granges to be as active as we have been during normal times, there are still things that each of us can do to help ourselves and our communities without putting ourselves in danger. You may be scratching your head and asking, "What are they? I am trapped at home. What can I possibly do?" Here are a few suggestions:

1. Take care of your dear selves. As we are told on every airplane flight, in case of emergency, put the oxygen on yourself first so then you can help others. Take care of yourself so you are fit and able to be of service to others.
2. Follow the state regulations and suggestions from health experts by social distancing, washing your hands frequently, and wearing a mask. You know this stuff!
3. Pray! We all know the power of prayer, so spend some time in prayer and meditation every day. Our medical workers and educators (online and in person) need extra prayers and encouragement right now.
4. Check on your neighbors and Grange members with a call or a card. Shut-ins feel especially lonely and vulnerable during this time. A cheerful call or note can help ward off that feeling of isolation and depression.
5. Do something you enjoy. Read positive books. Watch uplifting tv or movies. Rest, eat healthy, exercise, get out in nature, and think positively.

As you know, the NC Grange's state service project for 2019-2021 is the Baby Bundles project to support families in need in Mecklenburg County. Their website is www.babybundlesnc.org. Recently, we had a zoom presentation on this topic. Already,

many of you have made or bought items to donate to this great cause. We will present these gifts to the organization in the fall of 2021. Hats off to Cape Fear Grange who already made a generous financial donation to the Baby Bundles program. Big or small, every gift is needed and appreciated. Thank you for continuing to work on this state project.

I want to give a big congrats to our president, Jimmy Gentry for his recent outstanding award from NCSU as a star alumnus! We are so proud of you, Jimmy, and your hard work for NC citizens! If you have any questions about community service, Baby Bundles or have ideas to share, I would love to hear from you. Stay well and stay safe, NC Grange members, and every day, count your blessings and do something good for someone else.

Sharon Carter Underwood
shaunderwood1@gmail.com.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew



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 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 to list it!

2020 National Grange Publicity Item Contest

by: Chris Hamp,

National Grange Program Director

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to each of the Granges who made the effort to submit an item(s) for the 2020 National Grange Publicity Item Contest. Your efforts to keep your Grange active and relevant in your communities are outstanding and greatly appreciated! One word that comes to mind in reviewing these entries is PRIDE, these Granges show great PRIDE in their events, in their members and in their communities. Good on you!

A total of 88 publicity items were submitted from 22 different Granges representing 13 State Granges: 79 items in the In-House category (without professional assistance), and 9 items in the Professional category (paid or in-kind). The results are as follows:

In House:

- First: North Carolina State Grange; Farm of the Year Publicity Kit
- Second: High Desert Grange #22 (NV); Trifold Brochure
- Third: Sierra Valley Grange #466 (CA); Online Jigsaw Puzzle
- Fourth: Marble Valley Grange #567 (VT); Honk and Wave Signs

Professional:

- First: Virginville Grange #1832 (PA); 100th Anniversary Book
- Second: Five Mile Prairie Grange #905 (WA); Scholarship Award Ad
- Third: North Carolina State Grange; Website
- Fourth: Marble Valley Grange #567 (VT); Playbook Advertisement

FERGUSON GIVES!

by: Sharon Underwood

Ferguson Grange members put together 24 Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child boxes to go to children in need! Several members will go to Boone in December to help pack boxes there as well.



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!



The 2021 Quilt Block Contest with National Grange has been announced! The pattern for 2021 will be the pinwheel. Entries must be received by October 31, 2021, sent to Chris Hamp (16418 N. Birdie Rd, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026). There are three groups available. Group 1 is Adult (age 14+); Group 2 is Junior (age 13 and under); and Group 3 is Men (age 14+). Monetary prizes are available for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each group. Contact Chris Hamp at lecturer@nationalgrange.org for directions and further information about the pinwheel construction.

Looking for ways to stay connected? Check out
VolunteerMatch.org for ways to get involved in your community!



BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

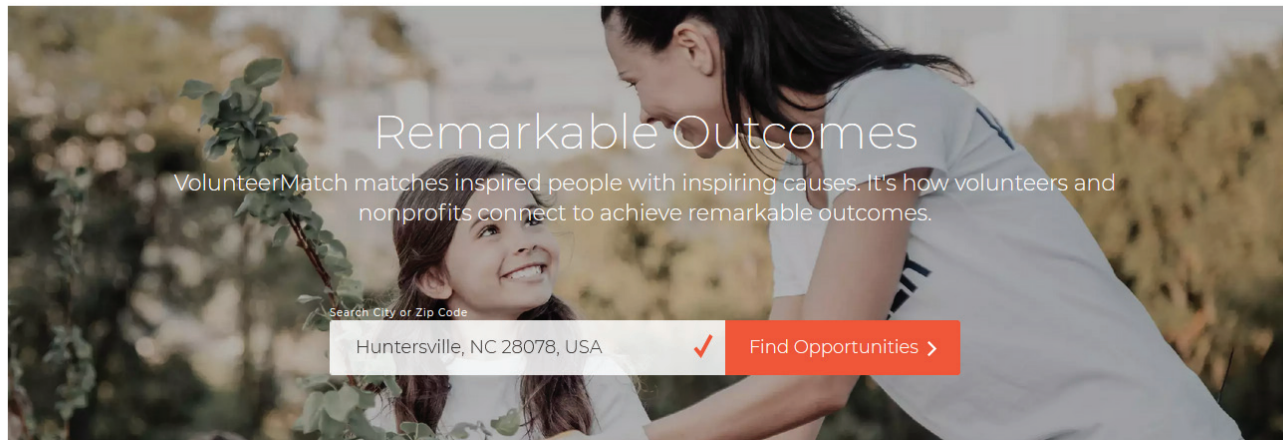
SIGN-UP

LOG IN

SEARCH

[Virtual Opportunities](#)

[Help With COVID-19 >](#)



SAVE THE DATE!!!
2021 GRANGE CAMP
JULY 4-10

In Memoriam

<i>Mike Hodges</i>	<i>Beaufort County Grange</i>
<i>Lindsey Sykes</i>	<i>Beaufort County Grange</i>
<i>Gail Peacock</i>	<i>Corriher Grange</i>
<i>*Carolina Finley</i>	<i>Ferguson Grange</i>
<i>Molly Hood</i>	<i>Grantham Grange</i>
<i>Jerry Weaver</i>	<i>Grantham Grange</i>
<i>*Lelia Jernigan</i>	<i>Guilford Grange</i>
<i>Joe Leggio</i>	<i>Guilford Grange</i>
<i>James Shores</i>	<i>Little Mountain Grange</i>
<i>Bill Hammond</i>	<i>Old Richmond Grange</i>
<i>Ruby Martin</i>	<i>Schley Grange</i>
<i>Charles Mincey</i>	<i>Schley Grange</i>
<i>*Mildred (Millie) Thompson</i>	<i>Schley Grange</i>
<i>Emma Hayes</i>	<i>Taylor's Bridge Grange</i>
<i>Tony McCullen</i>	<i>Westbrook Grange</i>
<i>David Sports</i>	<i>Westbrook Grange</i>

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

Psalm 118:28
** 50 Year Member*



NORTH CAROLINA GRANGE
1734 WILKESBORO HWY
STATESVILLE, NC 28625
704-878-0000
NCGRANGE.COM

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

*Merry Christmas
from the NC Grange!*