

The official publication of the NC State Grange

May/June 2015

GRANGE NEWS

REGISTER FOR
GRANGE CAMP &
SUBMIT YOUR
RESOLUTIONS!



Traditions Live on at St. John's Grange

By Emily Hartsell, NC Grange Junior Director & St. John's Grange member

Six eggs, five cups of flour; *"Now take the back side of your hand and form a bowl with the flour; pour your eggs in there, gradually add the flour to the eggs till you have a nice soft dough. Now, you will NOT use all that flour."*

I can still hear my grandmother, Betty Ritchie, telling me this every year as I start to make the first batch of dough. Every year the St. John's Grange has their annual Homemade Chicken Noodle Supper in November, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Grange members got together recently on two different days to make the noodles. The homemade noodles have members doing jobs from cracking and beating the eggs, mixing the dough, making small dough cakes, others rolling the dough cakes into thin pie crusts that are spread on tables to dry. After the pie crusts dry, they are cut into the noodles strips. These are placed back on the tables for additional drying, and then put into gallon freezer bags to freeze until our annual supper in November.



Left to right: Ryleigh Hartsell rolling noodles, members: Madelyn Suther, Gary Ritchie, Dianne Hudson, Mary Jo Ritchie, Sharon Ritchie and Ryleigh Hartsell, Emily Hartsell and Melanie Hudson make dough, Ned Hudson rolling noodles

May

25 Grange Office Closed

June

21-26 Youth Caravan

26-28 Eastern Regional Conference
Tennessee

July

3 Grange Office Closed

5-11 Grange Camp
Eastern 4-H Center

17 Resolutions Due

September

7 Grange Office Closed

17-20 State Convention
University Hilton,
Charlotte, NC

November

10-14 National Convention
Lincoln, Nebraska

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SAVE THE DATE!
Young Adult Event
Register on ncgrange.com

State Officers

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Program Director	Camille Barfield
Steward	Charles Klupenger
Assistant Steward	Valentin DeLeon
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Josh Barfield
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Greeter	Martha Suther
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
Flora	Carolyn Jernigan

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Legislative Director	Laurie Payne
Youth Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Jessica Horton
Publications Director	Jessica Horton



I am not sure exactly when Grange youth camp started in North Carolina, but I did find a reference in our history going back to 1947. It could have actually started before then. This has been a long-standing tradition of the State

Grange to provide a high quality camp for our young people. It is a great leadership development opportunity for both the junior and youth age groups.

Camp will be held at the Eastern 4-H Center July 5-11, and bus transportation will be provided. Participants will be involved in such activities as canoeing, swimming, archery, ropes course, talent, skit night, and many other activities. Grange adults as well as 4-H staff will be available to ensure that the participants have a fun and safe week. By the close of camp, our youth will have learned a lot about leadership in addition to developing new friendships with others from across the state.

Even though the 4-H Center is slightly increasing the fee, the State Grange Board of Directors have chosen to hold the price that we charge for camp to the same level as last year,

which is \$275.00. We have a number of local Granges that raise funds to help pay for youth and juniors to attend camp. It is a great investment! If any of our members would like to help sponsor kids to attend camp you can send contributions to the NC State Grange Foundation, designated for camp. Your contributions will be tax-deductible and very much appreciated.

On a personal note, I very much appreciate all of the cards, calls, and kind words expressed to me upon my mother's death. To those of you who attended the funeral I am very grateful. Some traveled long distances to be there. It is great to be part of a statewide Grange family who cares about each other, providing love and encouragement in times of need. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS DUE FOR STATE CONVENTION BY JULY 20!

Cover image by Leigh Payne, Troutman Grange

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.

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.

Gwyn Price, Grantham Grange

Sweet Potato Chocolate Chip Cake

8 Tbs unsalted butter, melted and cooled (1 stick)
1 Tsp allspice
1 ¼ Cup sugar
½ Tsp salt
3 Large eggs
1 ¾ Cups all-purpose flour
1 Cup sweet potatoes (canned is fine)
1/3 Cup milk
1 Tsp vanilla extract
1 Cup miniature choc chips
1 Tsp baking soda
1 Tsp baking powder
1 Cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Mist 8 inch square pan with cooking spray. Line with parchment paper.

Whisk together butter, sugar, eggs, sweet potatoes and vanilla in large mixing bowl. Stir in baking soda, baking powder, allspice and salt. Stir in ½ of flour, then milk, then remaining flour, stirring until just combined. (do not over mix) Fold in choc chips and nuts. Scrape batter into pan and smooth top with a spatula. Bake until firm to the touch and a toothpick comes out clean, 55 to 60 minutes. Let cool in pan on a wire rack for 5 minutes, then invert onto rack. Immediately turn right side up onto another rack to cool. Cut into squares and serve.

2nd Place, Adult Sweet Potato Cake

Linda Albright, Patterson Grange

No Bake Blueberry Pie

One 9" baked pie shell
¾ Cup sugar
¼ Tsp salt
2 ½ Tsp cornstarch
⅔ Cup water
1 Cup blueberries
2 Cups blueberries
2 Tbs butter
1 ½ Tsp lemon juice

Combine sugar, salt and cornstarch in saucepan. Blend in water, and blueberries. Stir in butter and lemon juice. Cool, then fold in 2 additional cups of blueberries in pie shell. Refrigerate 1 hour or more. Serve with whipped topping.

2nd Place, Adult Berry Pie

Dianne Hudson, St John's Grange

Fresh Apple Cake

¼ Cup cinnamon-sugar mixture (for cake pan)
4 Apples, chopped small
3 Eggs
1 Cup vegetable oil
2 Cups all purpose flour
2 Cups sugar
½ Tsp baking soda
1 Tsp cinnamon

Glaze:
2 Tbs butter
½ Cup firmly packed light brown sugar
2 Tbs milk

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Grease a bundt or tube pan and coat with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Mix apples, eggs and oil with an electric mixer. Add flour; sugar; baking soda and cinnamon; mix well. Pour into pan and bake about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Allow cake to rest in pan for at least 10 minutes; invert onto a cake plate. To prepare glaze, combine butter, brown sugar and milk in medium saucepan. Bring to boil and cook for 1 minute. Spoon over cake. Allow to cool before serving.

3rd Place, Adult Apple Cake

Leigh Payne, Troutman Grange

Apple Pie

1 Pillsbury pie pastry
6 Cups thinly sliced peeled tart apples (5 med)
¼ Cup apple butter
3 Tbs all-purpose flour
2 Tbs plus 1 and ½ tsp sugar
1½ Tsp apple pie spice
1 Tsp ground cinnamon

Topping
½ Cup all purpose flour
¼ Cup sugar
¼ Cup packed brown sugar
½ Tsp apple pie spice
½ Tsp ground cinnamon
3 Tbs cold butter
½ Cup chopped walnuts

Unroll pastry into a 9 inch pie plate; flute edges In a large bowl, toss apples with apple butter. Combine the flour, sugar, pie spice and cinnamon; add to apple mixture and toss to coat and transfer to crust. In a small bowl, combine the flour, sugar, brown sugar, pie spice and cinnamon. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add walnuts and sprinkle over filling. Bake at 375 for 45 to 50 minutes or until filling is bubbly and topping is browned. Cover edges with foil during the last 15 minutes to prevent overbrowning if necessary cool on a wire rack. Serve with ice cream if desired.

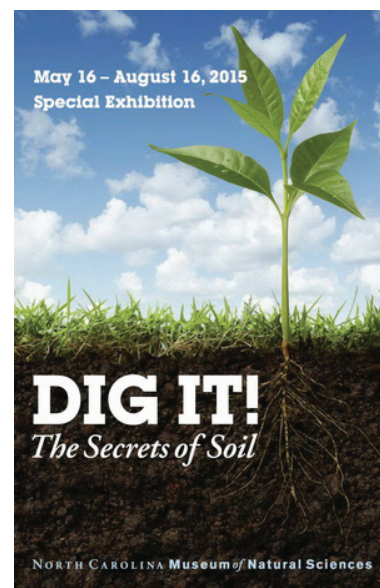
2nd Place, Adult Apple Pie

SOIL EXHIBIT COMING TO RALEIGH

By: Jimmy Gentry

A great exhibit on the nature of soils was developed a number of years ago through the efforts of the Soil Science Society of America working with the Smithsonian. Many organizations including the North Carolina State Grange provided contributions toward the development of this display. It was placed on display in the Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC from 2008-2010, which several Grangers were able to view during the celebration for the National Grange headquarters 50th anniversary. A traveling exhibit has been created that will be on display at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences with the opening to take place on May 16. The exhibit will remain in this museum until August 16. The NC State Grange also provided a contribution toward bringing this exhibit to Raleigh.

Soil is basic to human life and this interactive and interesting exhibit explores how soils support humanity. Various soil types are shown as well as how the soil exists in layers. The need for soil conservation has long been supported by the State Grange and keeping our soils healthy for maximum production. Grange members across North Carolina are encouraged to view this educational display at the museum during the months ahead.



BEAUFORT COUNTY GRANGE CELEBRATES AGRICULTURE!

By: Robert Cayton



Top: Herb May accepts the Beaufort Co. Grange Agribusiness of the Year Award on behalf of Mitchell Tractor, Presented by Ray Scott, Bottom: David Peele of Avoca Farms tells the story of Clary Sage -- *From an NC Farm to a Perfume Bottle Near You* -- to a banquet hall of listeners, Right: Steve Griffin accepts the Beaufort Co. Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year award, presented by Wayne Black

The Annual Agricultural Dinner and Celebration was held April 16, 2015 at the Beaufort County Grange Hall with approximately 120 people in attendance. The event is jointly sponsored by Beaufort County Extension, Beaufort County Farm Bureau, and Beaufort County Grange. Rod Gurganus, Beaufort County Extension, reminded those in attendance about farm safety and its importance. State Farm Bureau Board member Shawn Harding and State Grange President Jimmy Gentry extended greetings and shared with all present the importance of all farm organizations working together to protect and advance the agricultural base of Beaufort County and North Carolina.

The guest speaker, Dr. David Peele, President of Avoca, Inc., gave an overview of the Avoca, Inc. operation. He stated the most important element in all phases of agriculture is trust by all parties.

The selection of the Agro-Business of the Year was Mitchell Tractor and Equipment Company and the Farmer of the Year was Mr. Steve Griffin. With due recognition and appreciation for the award winners and the fine meal the celebration was concluded.

In Memoriam

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my
God, lights up my darkness.
Psalm 18:28 * 50 Year Member*

Mr. Selby Beaman
Mr. Everett Kennedy
Mrs. Sylvia S. Bryant
Mr. Ronald Cash
Dr. John Tart*

*Brogden Grange
Schley Grange
Associate Member
Associate Member
Grantham Grange*

CONTEST ENTRY UPDATES

By Jessica Horton

Each year the NC State Grange staff and department chairs make attempts to encourage participation in the state contests held each fall at our State Convention, by making entering easier on participants and volunteers working the contest. After much talk, testing and thought, the department chairs; Camille Barfield, Program Director and Joyce Clodfelter, Family Living Director we have elected to move some contest entries to online entries.

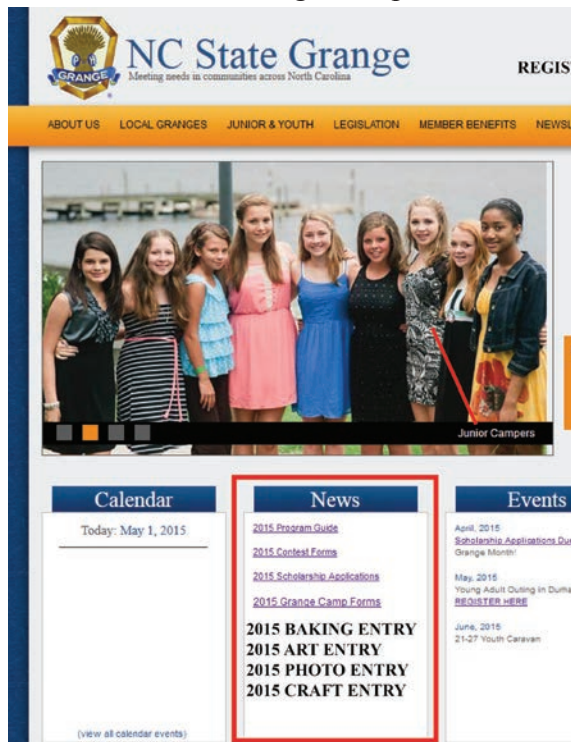
Prior to convention, if you are entering a photo, craft, baked good or art piece you will need to visit www.ncgrange.com and under 'news' at the bottom, find the appropriate contest you are entering. You will be taken to a short form to fill out the information regarding your entry. Once you fill in the blanks, you will need to print your entry form. You can do this two ways, by simply clicking "print form" at the bottom of the page after you complete the blanks, or a copy of your entry will be sent to the email address you provide on your entry form, you can print it from your email. Once printed, you will sign the bottom and bring it with your entry to convention.

Not only will this help eliminate one person from copying lots of forms and distributing them, but it will also help the volunteers at Convention. Instead of typing in each entry as they come in, they will automatically be populated into a spreadsheet, where they will be able to simply check off your entry as arrived.

If by chance you do not have internet access, some Grangers have recommended gathering together in a public space that offers wireless internet to complete the online form. Most grocery stores, coffee shops and McDonald's all offer complementary wireless internet.

Below I have depicted screen shots of exactly how to enter. If you have any questions regarding this process, I will be glad to come to your next Grange meeting for a demonstration.

STEP 1: Visit www.ncgrange.com on any device and look under "News" for the entry form links. *NOTE:* These links will not be online until after Grange Camp!



STEP 2: Type your information in the boxes. If you want to print your form immediately, click "Print Form" and *then* click submit.

A screenshot of the "2015 Photography Entry" form. The form is titled "2015 Photography Entry" and includes instructions: "You will need to complete this form AND print it." and "A copy of your completed form will be emailed to the email address you provide. Please print your submitted form either from your email, you may choose to print the actual email, or the PDF you can download from the email, or at the time you complete this form by pressing the 'print form' button below." Below the instructions are fields for Name, E-mail, Mailing Address (Street Address, Street Address Line 2, City, State, Zip Code, and Phone Number), Phone Number, Grange, Age Group, Contest, and Photo Title. At the bottom, there are 10 numbered rules for the contest, including requirements for original work, submission dates, and entry limits.

STEP 3: Once you click submit, you will get a thank you message and a copy of your entry will be sent to the email you provided on the form. Print, sign and bring it with your item to convention

**NORTH
CAROLINA
STATE
GRANGE**



**FIRST
PLACE**



Greetings Grangers,

The headlines in the New & Observer this morning (May 7th) was “Projections show \$400M budget surplus”, referring of course to what is referred to by legislative members, staffers and lobbyists as the “April surprise” or the amount of funds projected that North Carolina will collect in revenue this year. The 400 million projected surplus according to a consensus report which is prepared by the state budget office and nonpartisan Fiscal Research Division says, “the projected surplus is predominately due to higher income tax payments and lower refunds from the 2014 tax year.”

April 30th marked the deadline for all bills that originated in the House to cross over to the Senate and vice versa. The exceptions were bills that would affect the budget and are subject to appropriations. As you can imagine many bills did not cross over and are considered “dead” unless they are taken up again during the next legislative session. However, there are some bills that will be tacked on to another bill later during the session. Members often get very creative when it comes to getting a bill through especially if they are getting pressure from their constituents on a specific issue.

Cross-over affectively shifts the legislature’s focus to the state budget that is paramount to any other legislation. House appropriations have begun and hopefully by the time this “Grange News” issue reaches you the House will have released their budget proposal to the Senate. The legislature has reached what is typically the midpoint during long session; however there is never a guarantee on how long it will be until adjournment.

I have listed below the bills that The NC State Grange is

following that did make crossover. We will continue to follow these bills and I will be lobbying for or against them as needed. Following this list of bills that made crossover are the bills that involve appropriations and are not subject to the crossover deadline. Remember if you do not see a bill that you have been following, check to see if it involves appropriations such as H 227 – Broaden Sales Tax Exemption for Farmers. It still has the opportunity to make it over to the Senate or vice versa. This is the bill that lowers the income threshold from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Bills that made Crossover:

HB 3 – Eminent Domain - Proposed constitutional amendment to clarify that private property can only be taken for public use, not simply for a public purpose such as an industrial park. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 4 – Clarify Unmanned Aircraft Law – Establishes rules for use of drones, some of which might be used for agricultural purposes. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 41 (SB 19) – Revenue Law Technical Changes – clarifies that natural gas qualifies for farm exemption from sales tax,

and that the state will use the IRS definition of “income from farming operations” for consistency. Enacted into law.

HB 148 – Insurance Required for Mopeds – Requires owners of mopeds to have in full force and effect a policy of financial responsibility, to provide that mopeds



are subject to safety inspections, and to make clarifying changes related to the law requiring the registration of mopeds. Passed House; in Senate Insurance Committee.

HB 157 – Amends various Environmental Laws - Enacted into Law.

HB 232 – Study/Update Bike Safety Laws – Directs DOT to study the bicycle safety laws in NC and make recommendations as to how the laws may be revised to better ensure the safety of bicyclist and motorists on the roadways. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 318 – Protect NC Workers Act – Expands the requirement for employers to use E-Verify to immigration status of employees to employers with 5 employees from the current 25. Farmworkers would still be exempt, but workers involved in further processing would not be exempt. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 349 – Develop Broadband Connectivity Plan – Encourages provision of broadband access in all areas of NC by providing for the creation of a state broadband plan by the office of the state chief information officer and by specifying that broadband service providers may offer communications and broadband services in areas where the incumbent service provider is not providing broadband service. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 378 – Amd. Criteria/Certain Ag Cost-Share Programs – Provides alternate forms of documentation for participation in certain agricultural cost-share programs. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 405 – Property Protection Act – Protects property owners from damages resulting from individuals acting in excess of the scope of permissible access and conduct granted to them. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 456 – Clarify weight Limits/Ag Vehicles – Clarifies road weight limitation exceptions for transportation of agricultural products and supplies. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 553 – Ordinances Reg. Animals – Amends the authority of cities and counties to adopt ordinances regarding animals. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 569 – Rural County Dev. Funds for Road Const. – Allows rural counties to use developer funds for the construction of roads to serve occupants, residents, or invitees of a subdivision or development to enforce ordinances. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

HB 640 – Outdoor Heritage Act - Preserve North Carolina's outdoor heritage for future generations and amend various wildlife resources commission laws. Will make Sunday hunting legal in NC with some exceptions. Passed House; in Senate Rules Committee.

SB 372 – Renewable Energy Safe Harbor – Provides a safe harbor for renewable energy projects that are substantially completed by Jan. 1, 2016, by extending the tax credit for renewable energy property one year for those projects. Enacted into Law.

Bills not subject to crossover:

H 227 – Broaden Sales Tax Exemption for Farmers – Lowers the income requirement for qualifying farmers for purposes of the sales tax exemption for farmers. Appropriations.

SB 106 – Modify Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Match – provides that funds appropriated for military property buffers do not revert. Appropriations.

SB 513 – Farm Act of 2015 – very lengthy bill pertaining to the following issues: Horse industry, exemption of compensation paid to an H-2A Ag Worker from state income tax withholding, establish policy of supporting sustainable ag in the state, modify oversize vehicle permit time restrictions; all oversize transportation of hay bales, amend right-of-center requirements for certain ag vehicles; increase the permissible speed limit for ag spreader vehicles, modify PUV program, establish a procedure for the termination of conservation agreements, and limit the personally identifying information that the department of agriculture and consumer services may disclose about its animal health programs as well as others. Appropriations.

SB 586 – Local Food Sourcing Tax Credit – would allow a grocer to claim a tax credit for purchasing locally sourced foods. Appropriations.

SB 592 – Clarify Proof of Eligibility for Present Use Value – requires counties to use an application form pro-

vided by the Department of Revenue. Appropriations.

From the Hill

There are several bills that the Grange is watching on the federal level. They are listed below along with a brief description and their status.

HR 1599 – Safe & Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015 – to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered organism, the labeling of natural foods, and for other purposes. This bill as of 4/8/2015 was referred to

the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture.

HR 1105 – Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015 – amends the Internal revenue Code to (1) repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and (2) make permanent the maximum 35% gift tax rate and the lifetime gift tax exemption. Provides for an inflation adjustment to such exemption amount. This bill was introduced in the Senate on 3/25/2015 and referred to the Committee on Finance.

As always I am available to answer any questions you may have about any ongoing legislation issues. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



DARBY MADEWELL
BUSHY FORK GRANGE
NC STATE

JANZEN JONES
SOUTHERN WAKE GRANGE
NC STATE

KAYLAN SINCLEAR
WESTBROOK GRANGE
NC STATE



MEGAN KING
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TYLER FORRISTER
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TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



TRI-COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DYLAN BLACKBURN
WESTBROOK GRANGE
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY



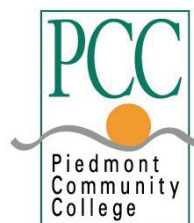
NICOLE ROOF
SOUTHERN WAKE GRANGE
AUBURN



KATIE LEONARD
ARCADIA GRANGE
WESTERN CAROLINA



AUGUST HOWERTON
BUSHY FORK GRANGE
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Anybody Upset Your Apple Cart?

Recently, I have had the opportunity to work with several individuals in areas where we did not have an agent to assist them with their individual health insurance options. These individuals represented a wide range of circumstances, needs, and desires verifying that each case was a unique individual and that one size does not fit all. Each person had to be matched to a plan or combination of plans that would best fit their own individual needs and desires. In one case, the expectations of policy benefits and cost could not be achieved. Another case involved someone just becoming eligible for Medicare Disability and the challenges of working through the retirement of the spouse and losing the group coverage – getting all the puzzle pieces to line up without any gaps of coverage. Then there was the individual just turning 65 and needed something to pick up where Medicare stopped.

Each of these folks got rocked out of their comfort zone and had to make decisions that they really were not prepared to make on their own. In each case, we had to discuss all the pros and cons of their options to weigh the cost and benefits offered. Thankfully, our NC State Grange agents always keep the individual/family in mind as they present the possible insurance solutions to the various needs, desires and cost.

In my first example, there was not a product

that could fill this individual's expectations at a price point they expected. Unfortunately for this individual, they were lulled into the belief that once they qualified for certain disability benefits, all future medical expenses could be taken care of for little or no cost to them. Therefore, in this case, we could only educate the individual on their options, the premium and all the other financial responsibilities associated with that particular option. Now at least, they have a realistic picture to ponder on before making their decision on how to handle their future health insurance program.



The second case required knowledge and coordination between the spouse's former employer, Social Security, and then being able to put a Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plan in place – all so there were no lapses in health care coverage. The difficult part of this case was the coordination between the spouse's former employer and Social Security, as one would refer the client back to the other in an eternal cycle where nobody wanted to make the first move. Once the cycle was broken, we could then talk about and decide which plan

or combination of plans would be most economically beneficial to the client based on their medical condition and medical providers normally used for their care.

In the third example, I came into the meeting with a good idea of coverage I thought this person should have. Thankfully, after getting all the facts – including a possible pending surgery that I was unaware of, the direction I was going in completely changed because her need was not what I had expected. The point here is that had they not disclosed everything to their agent, they would not have the best fitting coverage for their need.

From these three separate cases, truly you can see that each and every one is an individual and we all have different needs, desires, and goals. While they may be similar, we are different and this stresses the point of having a good insurance agent that you can trust and share with. The old saying about the round peg in a square hole is so true when it comes to your insurance program. Each of us needs to have our own structured coverages. That includes coverage for health, life,

disability or long-term care.

Medicare Supplement rate notices were received by many for a June 1st effective date recently. We did see some increased premiums due to many factors and even a drop in premiums for one plan. If you are one of these individuals with a rate increase, there may be additional options available for your consideration. Call your local agent today and let them go over them with you – letting your agent and pencil be your friend to find the most affordable coverage options.

REMINDER!!!

2015 National Grange Month forms are due July 31!

North Carolina State Grange
1734 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625
(704) 878-0000
www.ncgrange.com

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FILL IN THE SHORT FORM AND THEN COMPLETE THE FORMS SENT TO
THE EMAIL ADDRESS YOU PROVIDE ● [YOU CAN NOW PAY ONLINE!](#)

