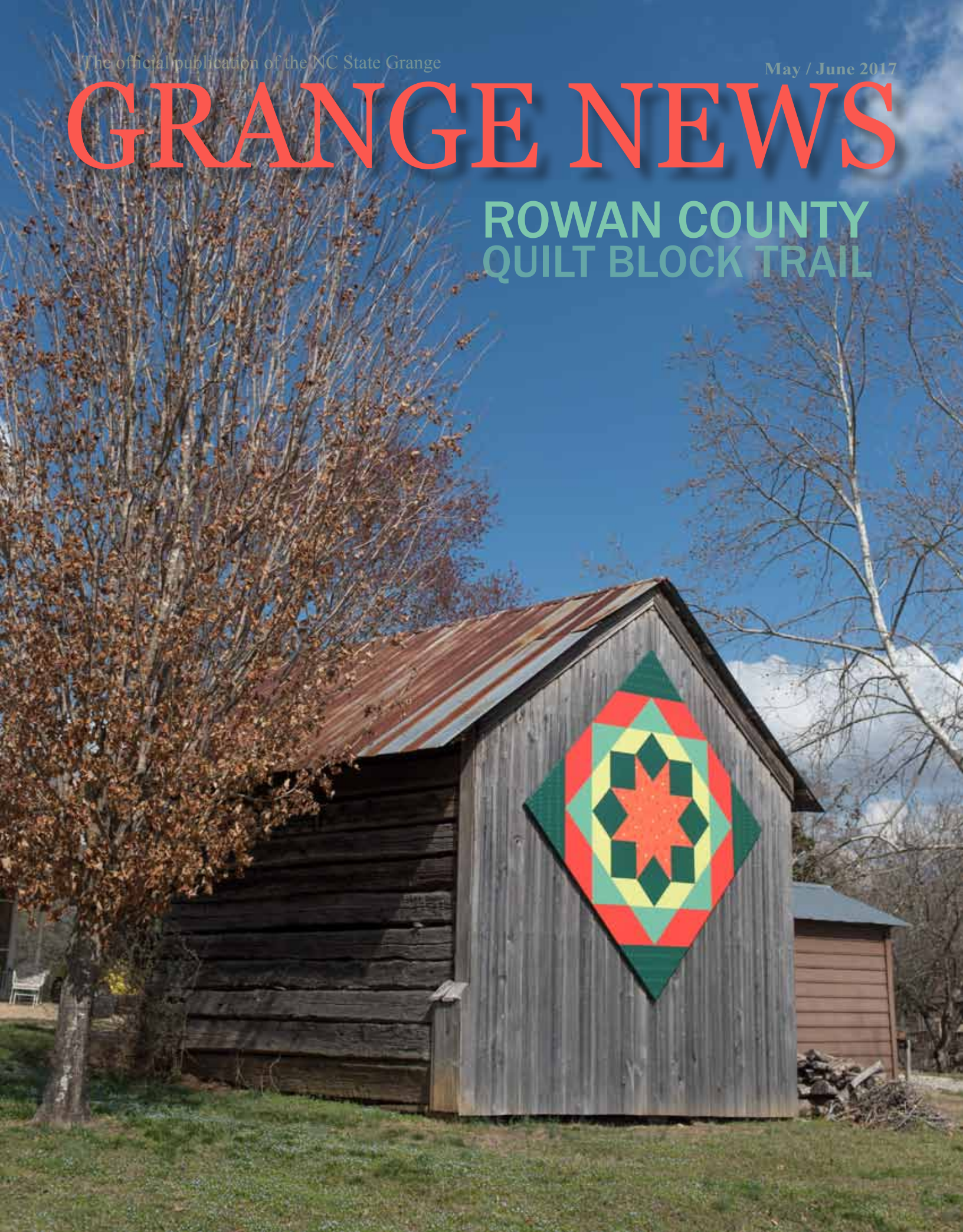


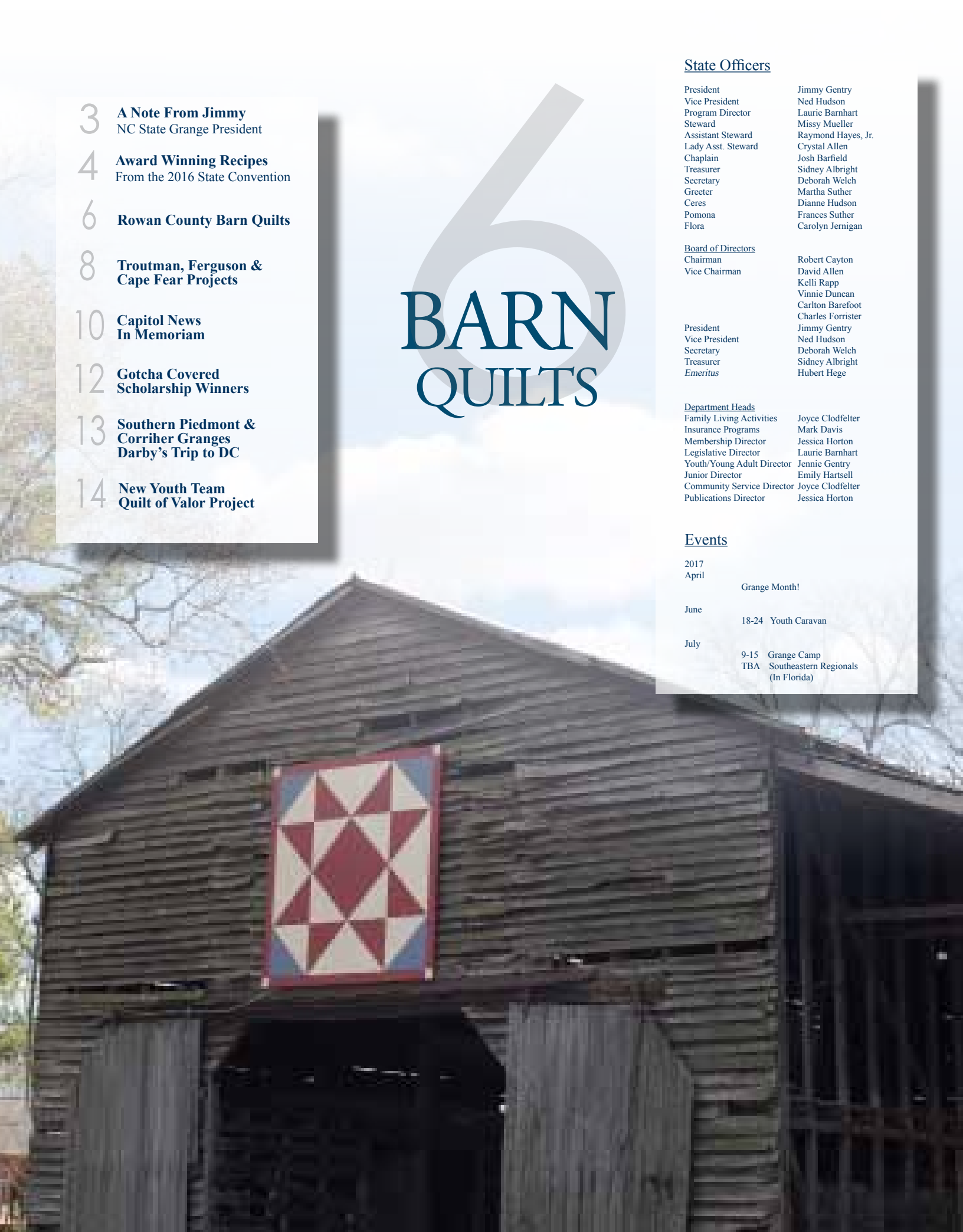
The official publication of the NC State Grange

May / June 2017

GRANGE NEWS

ROWAN COUNTY
QUILT BLOCK TRAIL





- 3 **A Note From Jimmy**
NC State Grange President
- 4 **Award Winning Recipes**
From the 2016 State Convention
- 6 **Rowan County Barn Quilts**
- 8 **Troutman, Ferguson & Cape Fear Projects**
- 10 **Capitol News In Memoriam**
- 12 **Gotcha Covered Scholarship Winners**
- 13 **Southern Piedmont & Corriher Granges Darby's Trip to DC**
- 14 **New Youth Team Quilt of Valor Project**

BARN QUILTS

State Officers

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Vice President	Ned Hudson
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Steward	Missy Mueller
Assistant Steward	Raymond Hayes, Jr.
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Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Secretary	Deborah Welch
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Pomona	Frances Suther
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Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Joyce Clodfelter
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

Events

2017	
April	Grange Month!
June	18-24 Youth Caravan
July	9-15 Grange Camp TBA Southeastern Regionals (In Florida)



Our Health Care Is On the Table

What will Congress do with health care? The US House passed their version of legislation to replace the Affordable Health Care (AHC) Act, and it is now in the hands of the Senate. There is no doubt that they have a tough job ahead of them. Medicare covers those individuals over 65 years of age, but those who are under 65 still depend on the individual market, or plans provided by an employer. In North Carolina, we are down to only one statewide health insurer, which is Blue Cross & Blue Shield (BCBS) of NC. A second company is in a few counties around the Ra-

leigh area. Serious consideration was given by BCBS to drop out of the AHC market, but they ultimately decided to remain for this year. According to their announcements, they have lost money in the AHC market, but were profitable in other areas such as group business. Because the AHC is not profitable, many insurance companies have opted out. Health insurance companies get a lot of criticism from the public because of increasing premiums, but it is important to remember that their costs to cover the medical needs of clients are also increasing.

It is extremely complicated, and difficult to comprehend how the government can solve all of the problems associated with health care. Through the AHC Act, the government is already supplementing the cost of health care for many individuals who need the assistance. Will the government also need to supplement insurance companies to keep them in the market? Can we afford the taxes that could be levied upon us to pay for government costs related to health care? There are those who believe that Medicare is unsustainable because of increased costs to the government. The questions posed are difficult to answer, but Congress will have to come up with the answers. All of this is complicated

further because of a national debt of more than \$19 trillion. Furthermore, in 2016, the federal government operated in a budget deficit of \$587 billion. According to NC Grange policy, we believe that the federal government should operate with a balanced budget.

So what do we do as NC Grange members? We simply continue to advocate for those items that are in our legislative policy. We support tax credits for medical expenses. We want lower costs, high quality care, and easy access to care. We need doctors and hospitals in rural areas. We believe that all citizens should have access to quality healthcare, and they should be able to choose the doctor and insurance carrier of their choice. We support the creation of high risk pools for those entering the insurance market with pre-existing conditions.

As Congress wrestles with this difficult legislation, your members of Congress should be representing the desires of their individual districts. Let them hear from you! If you would like our assistance with crafting language that you would like to share with your Congressional representatives, let us know.

Cover: Adele Goodman's barn quilt in honor of her beloved pet peacock. Pictured left is the barn of Barbarra and Darryl Corriher of Corriher Grange.

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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.

STRAWBERRY PIE

LINDA ALBRIGHT | PATTERSON GRANGE
3RD PLACE ADULT BERRY PIE

2 9" PIE CRUSTS
3 CUPS STREWBERRIES
1 CUP CHOPPED NUTS
1 LARGE CARTON COOL WHIP
1 CAN CONDENSED MILK
1/2 CUP LEMON JUICE
1 TEASPOON VANILLA

BAKE PIE SHELLS, SET ASIDE.
CHOP STRAWBERRIES & MIX WITH COOL WHIP. MIX MILK,
LEMON JUICE, VANILLA & NUTS. MIX ALL TOGETHER.
POUR INTO 2 BAKED & COOLED PIE SHELLS.
REFRIGERATE.

TEXAS PRALINES

SUSAN ALBRIGHT
TROUTMAN GRANGE
1ST PLACE NUT CANDY

NONSTICK COOKING SPRAY
2 CUPS WHITE SUGAR
2 CUPS LIGHT CORN SYRUP
1 POUND BUTTER

2 CUPS HEAVY CREAM
2 TEASPOONS VANILLA EXTRACT
8 CUPS PECANS

LINE 2 BAKING SHEETS WITH ALUMINUM FOIL. COAT WITH NONSTICK COOKING SPRAY.
IN A LARGE SAUCEPAN OVER MEDIUM HEAT, COMBINE SUGAR AND CORN SYRUP. HEAT TO 250 DEGREES F (120 DEGREES C). REMOVE FROM HEAT, AND STIR IN BUTTER UNTIL MELTED. GRADUALLY STIR IN CREAM. RETURN TO HEAT. COOK, STIRRING CONSTANTLY, UNTIL TEMPERATURE REACHES 242 DEGREES F (116 DEGREES C). REMOVE FROM HEAT, AND STIR IN VANILLA AND PECANS.
DROP BY SPOONFUL ONTO PREPARED PANS. COOL COMPLETELY, THEN WRAP WITH PLASTIC.

FRESH APPLE RAISEN NUT COOKIES

SHARON RITCHIE
ST. JOHNS GRANGE
1ST PLACE APPLE COOKIE

1 STICK BUTTER
1 1/2 CUPS BROWN SUGAR
1/2 TEASPOON SALT
1/2 TEASPOON NUTMEG
1/2 TEASPOON CINNAMON
1 EGG
2 CUPS FLOUR
1 TEASPOON SODA
1 CUPS FINELY CHOPPED APPLE
1 CUPS RAISINS
1 CUPS CHOPPED NUTS
1/4 CUPS MILK

CREAM TOGETHER BUTTER, BROWN SUGAR, SALT, NUTMEG, CINNAMON, AND EGG.
ADD FLOUR AND SODA. STIR IN APPLE, RAISINS, NUTS, AND MILK. DROP BY TEASPOONFUL ON GREASED COOKIE SHEET. BAKE 8 -10 MINUTES AT 350 DEGREES.

YIELD: 3 1/2 TO 4 DOZENS COOKIES.

GLUTEN FREE PEANUT BUTTER OAT COOKIES

JESSICA HORTON
QUEEN CITY GRANGE
2ND PLACE ADULT NUT COOKIE

1 CUP CREAMY OR CHUNKY PEANUT BUTTER (NOT NATURAL)
2/3 CUP PACKED DARK BROWN SUGAR OR COCONUT SUGAR
1 1/2 TEASPOONS VANILLA
2 LARGE EGGS
2/3 CUP ROLLED OATS (GLUTEN-FREE IF DESIRED)
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
2/3 CUP CHOCOLATE CHIPS

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES.
IN SMALL BOWL MIX TOGETHER THE OATS AND BAKING SODA; SET ASIDE.
IN A LARGE BOWL BEAT PEANUT BUTTER, BROWN SUGAR, EGGS AND VANILLA WITH AN ELECTRIC MIXER UNTIL SMOOTH, ABOUT 3 MINUTES. MIX IN DRY INGREDIENTS WITH A WOODEN SPOON, THEN GENTLY FOLD IN CHOCOLATE CHIPS.
ROLL COOKIES INTO 2 INCH DOUGH BALLS AND PLACE ONTO COOKIE SHEET 2 INCHES APART, THEN BARELY FLATTEN THE TOP OF THE COOKIE WITH YOUR HAND. THE DOUGH SHOULD BE PRETTY STICKY SO IF YOU FIND THIS METHOD ANNOYING, SIMPLY USE A COOKIE SCOOP TO DROP THE COOKIE DOUGH ONTO THE PREPARED BAKING SHEET.
BAKE COOKIES FOR 9-11 MINUTES AND REMOVE WHEN EDGES BARELY BEGIN TO TURN A GOLDEN BROWN. THE COOKIES MAY LOOK A LITTLE UNDERDONE, BUT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO COOK ONCE YOU REMOVE THEM FROM THE OVEN.
COOL FOR 2 MINUTES ON THE COOKIE SHEET THEN TRANSFER TO A WIRE RACK TO COOL COMPLETELY. REPEAT WITH REMAINING COOKIE DOUGH. MAKES 16-20 COOKIES.

Barn quilts have become quite the rage in many areas of rural America. The origin of the Quilt Block Trail or Barn Quilt Trail started in the 1950's when local farm owners began enhancing their barns with replicas of quilt blocks to entice visitors to visit the rural agriculture areas and increase tourism. Some of the quilt block designs were from family quilts, some told a family story, some were symbolic of that particular farm and some were simply to beautify the farm and to add interest to the landscape especially when the land lies fallow and unadorned by Mother Nature. Regardless of the reason, they certainly brighten up our countryside during the winter months when skies are gray and fields are covered with a white blanket of snow. The NC State Grange Board of Directors approved a Barn Quilt Project to be sponsored and encouraged by our local Granges. We are hopeful that many of our Granges will take the initiative to encourage their members to get on board and add to the already existing Quilt Barn Trails around our state or to start one of their own in their community. Our Board felt like this project would be a wonderful gift to the community as well as a fun project for the entire Grange to participate in.



Hilda & Lee Goodnight's barn, built by Lee's father. The quilt is in the tulip pattern using colors of corn, green beans and tomatoes.

Quilts Quilts Quilts!

BY: LAURIE BARNHART

The mission of the North Carolina State Grange Quilt Trail is to commemorate our long history of dedication to agriculture and service to our communities by designing, constructing and installing wooden quilt blocks on Grange Halls and other appropriate buildings in Grange communities.

To get us started on the right track and find out a little more about Quilt Block trails Vinnie Duncan of Corriher Grange, Jessica Horton, our staff photographer and myself set out to investigate and tour the unofficial Quilt Block Trail of Western Rowan County. We were amazed at the quality, the beautiful designs and colors, and the pride the owners took in displaying their individual Quilt Blocks. In the Corriher Grange Community, there are 9 total, 5 belonging to Corriher Grange members.

If you are not a quilter you may not know that a quilt block is the small portion (square) of a quilt top. A number of quilt blocks together make a quilt. The blocks can be the same or they can be different from each other. Quilt blocks can be pieced or appliquéd. Some quilt blocks even form parts of a bigger quilt block. The sky is the limit! In the olden days, a quilter would create a pattern for a quilt block and then construct the quilt. She would share ideas with her friends and family, who in turn would share them with their friends and family. As a result, many people living in the same area would use the same quilt patterns. In those days (before Bed, Bath & Beyond), quilts were not only a labor of love, they were a necessity.

Our goal is to have Quilt Blocks painted on pre-built wooden boards and hung on the exterior of Grange Halls, community buildings such as county fairground buildings or individual Grange members' barns or other farm exteriors. A typical quilt block size would be 8' x 8' square however, it will depend on the size of the exterior building. The larger the building, the larger the quilt block can be. Obviously, the larger it is the better it can be seen depending on where the barn is located. If there are quilt blocks

in your area, you will probably find someone who can not only construct the quilt block but help you with as little or as much help as you need.

Material List for an 8 x 8 Barn Quilt

2- 4' x 8' pieces of outdoor sign board such as ½" plywood or Duraply board which is smooth on one side only. Pre-primed is better. This will be the canvas for the barn quilt. 6 - 2" x 4" x 8' pine boards. This is to construct a frame so that the quilt block can be hung from the back 8 lag bolts or hardware to attach to building.

Paint: primer if needed, design colors, preferably an enamel exterior product. The design can be finished with a shiny coat of water based polyurethane which will protect it from the weather.

Stainless steel screws.

The Design

There is a myriad of ideas for Quilt Blocks. If your Grange decides to take this on as a project, I would suggest forming a small committee that will make the decisions and present the ideas to the local Grange as a whole. Three design ideas would be a good number. It would be most important to involve the youth on your committee as well. The design does not need to be complicated. Some of the most impressive quilt blocks are the simple ones with bright, vivid colors.

You can find lots of ideas on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com. There is also a wonderful book by Suzi Parron that has many design ideas: "Barn Quilts and the American Quilt Trail Movement". Incorporating the Grange Logo in your design would be fantastic as well. This website <http://www.quilttrailswnc.org/index.html> is also an excellent source of information and ideas.

As you begin to talk about this project, please feel free to call me. I am happy to help you brain storm about ideas and also to answer any questions you may have.



Vinnie Duncan's matching barn & cloth quilts



Have you seen the
May issue of *Our State*?
We have **THREE** Grangers
recognized in this issue!

Gordon Neville's century farm was recognized in the *Forever Farms* article. Patterson Farm (Doug Patterson) and Lewis Farms (Laurie Barnhart) were both mentioned in the *Strawberry Season* article.

FROM JOYCE!

Joyce Clodfelter, Community Service & Family Living Director

We are coming close to the middle of another year and I hope your Grange has been very active these last four and a half months, especially getting involved with our community service project (PJ's and Books) for state convention. I would love to hear from some of you as to how you are doing!

Convention time brings on the competition for baking, arts and crafts, writing and local granges nominating individuals and churches to receive monetary awards. I hope each Grange is working hard on this. I, especially want to remind everyone about the pies that are entered this year. You must make your own pie crust and I truly hope this does not discourage you from entering. I know many of you have made them over the years, even if it is easier this day and time to buy one in the grocery store. So practice and bring on the pies in September!

Looking forward to seeing you at convention and especially at the entry tables. Be sure to check your 2017 Guidelines concerning entry cut-off date.

We are planning to accept cards again for St. Jude's. A few changes! NO CHRISTMAS CARDS! Birthday, all occasion, get well, anniversary, Valentine, Easter, Thanksgiving are acceptable. One change, I need the entire card (do not tear them apart). Their can be no writing inside the front part of the card and no odd fronts (holes in card, tri-folds, etc) and most important, must be no larger than a 5x7. Please check your cards, as this is very time consuming for us to do hundreds of these. Your help with this project is gratefully appreciated.

TROUTMAN GRANGE

ART CONTEST BY: GAY SHAVER

Troutman Grange hosted their annual Art Contest in April. This contest is open to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at Troutman Elementary School. This year's topic was Earth Day, and art teacher, Allison Levis was instrumental in helping us with this project. Earlier in the school year Troutman Grange presented Mrs. Levis with crayons, markers and colored pencils.

Winners: Grand Prize - Nicole Medina; **5th grade:** 1st Andrew Maiers

4th grade: 1st Patience Rueda; 2nd Jaira Pyrant; 3rd Angelina Trent and Yasmine Dobbins; **3rd grade:** 1st Quentin Steele, 2nd Layla Weatherford and 3rd Aysha Henderson

Pictured L to R: Quentin Steele, Aysha Henderson and Andrew Maiers



FERGUSON GRANGE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

BY: SHARON UNDERWOOD

The Ferguson Grange Beautification Project on April 8th, was a success in bringing our community together to share seeds, plants, enjoy homemade goodies, coffee and to find some treasures at the yard sale. It was held at the Ferguson Community Center from 8 am to noon. Grange members celebrated National Grange Month's theme: "We are Do'ers!" by hosting this first time event for the community. Many asked for it to become an annual event since they left with arm loads of flower seeds, vegetable and flower plants and fruit bushes. Neighbor, Christine Horton, played the piano for entertainment and there was even a little dancing. Mrs. Lisa Blevins won the door prize of a gardening basket with a Wilkes rock as part of the prize! Funds earned through the yard sale will go to future community service projects. Seeds were purchased and donated from the American Seed Company; also focusing on pollinators. We are all looking forward to seeing the fruits of this event in making our community even more attractive with flowers.

Many thanks go to the members who worked hard to make it happen and the Ferguson Community Organization for their support and encouragement. New members are welcome to join our club that meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm at the Ferguson Community Center



CAPE FEAR GRANGE CARVERS CREEK STATE PARK PROJECT

BY: KEN PLUMMER



Back of pump house before restoration, roof and back wall extensively damaged, many support beams water damaged.



Cape Fear Grangers hard at work

Finally, on April 29, 2017 a 10 member team from the Cape Fear Grange completed the refurbishment of the pump house. This included replacement or reinforcement of the structural supports in the building and the roof, siding repair and replacement, and the installation of the tin roof. The shingles on the exterior walls were removed to return the structure to its' original condition. Superintendent Conolly is very thankful for our work and said, "Managing a state park is a lot like running a farm. The list of work to be done is endless and must be prioritized. The work on the old pump house completed by the Cape Fear Grange was a great success, and I am very thankful for their efforts." The members of the Cape Fear Grange were happy to contribute to this worthy cause, and hope maintaining the integrity of park structures helps visitors understand the use and importance of the structures required to operate the farm. We look forward to providing further support to the park in the future.

Spring Lake, NC is home to one of the lesser known treasures of the North Carolina state park system, Carvers Creek State Park. The Long Valley Farm portion of the park is comprised of 1,430 acres, and was donated to the state by The Nature Conservancy of North Carolina who had received the land and its buildings from the estate of James Stillman Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller's will stipulates the land must always be used for conservation purposes. In the 1700's the land was part of a large plantation known as, "Ardnave," and was a working farm from 1912 to 2004.

After several members of the Cape Fear Grange visited the park, we were very anxious to find a way to support the park, as there is clearly potential to use the facility to help educate the community on the importance of agriculture in our history. There is nothing like a former working farm to help illustrate this point. Jane Conolly, Park Superintendent suggested that we begin by refurbishing a circa 1940's pump house in the farm area that was on the verge of collapse. This pump house, which was the primary water source for the farm section of the property, was damaged when a tree fell on top of it a number of years ago. Not only was the roof extensively damaged, but the rear wall was also severely damaged. "The collapse or loss of this building would be a loss of the unique character of the park and its farm history," Conolly said. As a building in a state park, we would be required to renovate the building in a historically accurate manner. This would include utilizing pine lumber and tin roof repurposed from demolished buildings on site.

We were ready to select a date for the project when the park was hit with a double whammy. First, the park received about 10 inches of rain on September 28, 2016, and a week later Hurricane Matthew came through the area, depositing another 15 inches of rain. The dam and spillway on site were overwhelmed by the volume of rain, and severely damaged. The flooding also caused extensive damage to the access roads and other areas of the park. Based on this, we mutually agreed to postpone the project while the park staff focused on more urgent repairs.



Caption: Cape Fear Grange members in front of the restored pump house. From left: Al Milller, Steve Runkle, Wayne Stack, Phil Black, Julia Stack, Ken Plummer, Lois Plummer, Kathy Miller, Steve O'Connor, David Fowler, and Chance.

There has been a plethora of news emanating from Washington as well as Raleigh in the last few weeks. The news has been coming fast and furious since President Trump was inaugurated in January. It is absolutely impossible to keep up with all the newsfeeds. From Supreme Court confirmation stalls to FBI Director Comey’s firing last week, it has been an absolute firestorm of contradictory reports.

The NC Senate released their \$22.9 billion dollar 2017-19 budget on May 11th. It was passed in the Senate 32 to 15 along party lines. This is a 2.5 percent increase over the present budget equating to approximately \$560,000,000. The Senate Budget will now go to the House for their adjustments. After that, the Senate and the House will negotiate their changes. The House Budget is predicted to be out the first week of June.

Gov. Cooper’s \$23.4 billion dollar budget proposal was released in March. Some believe with the Republicans’ veto-proof majority in both the House and the Senate, the Governor’s budget holds little weight.

Below are selected highlights from The Insider-May 12th of the Senate’s budget proposal that many of our Grangers will be interested in. Please remember this is just the Senate’s proposal. There will be quite a bit of negotiating with the House before the final numbers are agreed upon. After that more than likely Gov. Cooper will veto it, and then it will go back to the General Assembly where they in all probability will override the veto.

Taxes

- Reduce individual income tax rate from 5.499 percent to 5.35 percent in 2018.
- Increase standard deductions for individual income tax filers.
- Lower corporate income tax rate from 3 percent to 2.75 percent in 2018 and 2.5 percent in 2019.
- Overhauls and reduces business franchise tax, creating flat \$200 tax on first \$1 million of a business’ net worth.

Salaries

- Average 3.7 percent increase in teacher salaries: \$131 million.
- Use \$24 million in lottery proceeds to increase principal compensation and create a new salary schedule based on experience and performance.
- Assistant principal pay increases: \$4.5 million.
- Rank-and-file state employees pay increases of the greater of 1.5 percent of their salaries or \$750: \$142 million.

- Complete multi-year effort to increase pay of state correctional officers: \$18.4 million.
- Boost salaries for state employee positions considered difficult to retain or recruit: \$5 million.
- Eliminate retiree medical benefits for new state employees hired after June 2018.

Agriculture Natural & Economic Resources purchase airplane and maintain and operate fire-fighting equipment by state Forest Service: \$2.3 million.
international marketing of state agricultural products: \$500,000.
Tobacco Trust Fund, which provides grants to tobacco-related farms and businesses: \$664,000.
agricultural conversation easements and other programs to sustain family farms: \$1 million.
eliminate funding, three positions for Department of Agriculture’s Small Farms Program: -\$238,000
reduce Department of Environmental Quality by 9 percent, in part by eliminating 45 positions, including the department’s chief deputy.
Funding would be eliminated for the department’s environmental assistance and customer services programs, as well as for energy research for energy centers at N.C. State University, North Carolina A&T State University and Appalachian State University: -\$7.2 million.
Clean Water Management Trust Fund: \$3.5 million.

The Senate’s budget proposal was not the only news to come out of the General Assembly over the last few weeks. House Bill 467- Agriculture and Forestry Nuisance Remedies, introduced by Rep. Jimmy Dixon from Duplin County, clarifies the remedies available in private nuisance actions against agricultural and forestry operations. This bill passed both the House and the Senate and was vetoed by Gov. Cooper however; the bill went back to the General Assembly where the Gov.’s veto was overridden. This law limits damages to no more than the fair market value of the property causing the nuisance.

From the Hill

National Grange Director, Burton Eller

Sonny Perdue Confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture

Former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue was confirmed as the 31st Secretary of Agriculture by the Senate April 24. In a statement following the confirmation, National Grange President Betsy Huber said his strong background as the son of a farmer, a government administrator, businessman and the product of rural America make Perdue an excellent choice to be Secretary.

The next day, the new Secretary walked into a meeting with USDA employees, peeled off his coat, discarded his tie, rolled up his sleeves, saying, “I was a farmer first. This Job at USDA is about work. It’s about getting things done.” Perdue then joined President Trump for a Farmers Roundtable at the White House where the President signed an Executive Order creating a task force on rural prosperity and making Perdue its chair. A couple days later, the Secretary hosted the Senate and House chairs and ranking minority members of the agriculture committees and agriculture appropriations subcommittees for breakfast at USDA, seen around Washington as a politically savvy move.

The Budget Deal

Congress finally reached a bipartisan budget deal to keep the government open through the end of the fiscal year September 30. The house passed the \$1.1 trillion spending package Wednesday, May 9 with an overwhelming bipartisan vote 309-118. On Thursday, May 4 the Senate voted 79-18 to pass the bill with no Democrats votes against it. The budget deal adds \$12.5 billion in new money for the military, \$1.5 billion for new border security such as technology investments and repairs to existing border fencing, and infrastructure plus wildfire relief for the western states. The package does not include some of the administration’s top priorities like money for a border wall, funding restrictions on Planned Parenthood or penalties on “sanctuary cities”. Most agencies and programs will continue at existing level funding with last year’s budget. Budget negotiations unexpectedly caused a rift between cotton and dairy producers and their allies in congress. The stunning failure to agree on aid to dairy and cotton producers creates a multibillion dollar budget hole as they prepare to write the 2018 farm bill. The cotton industry thought it had a deal in the budget package to establish cottonseed as an “other oilseed” so cotton producers would be eligible for Price Loss Coverage under the 2014 farm bill. But when Michigan Senator Stabenow and Vermont Senator Leahy tried to add a similar assistance program for dairy producers, the deal fell apart for both dairy and cotton. In the end, both programs fell victim to budget baseline limitations.

Healthcare

The House passed the American Health Care Act aimed at repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act on Thursday, May 4 by a narrow 217-213 vote. A similar measure had to be pulled in March because of a lack of votes. A series of deals the week of May 1 brought the conservative Freedom Caucus and wavering Republican moderates on board.

The Obama Care replacement now goes to the Senate where the House-passed bill is expected to be heavily rewritten in hopes of garnering 51 votes under a special rule known as budget reconciliation. Democratic Senators will argue that various parts of the House bill will not meet Senate rules governing what can be included in reconciliation, thus requiring a 60 vote margin to pass.

Congress has been trying to figure out how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act since January. Several replacement bill versions have come from the White House, the House Republicans and individual Congressmen. None of these legislative packages could muster enough votes to pass. One version would have charged those over 55 years of age far higher insurance premiums. Another did not cover preexisting conditions. Yet another proposal would allow the states a plethora of options to run their own healthcare program.

The House adopted two amendments to the revised American Health Care Act that garnered enough support for the Act to pass the House. One amendment provided \$8 billion over five years to help people with preexisting conditions afford their premiums (Health policy experts say that’s not near enough money). The other amendment allows states to waive Obama Care community rating rules which ban insurers from charging sick patients more than healthy ones (which could allow insurers to charge exorbitant premiums to sick people). The House decided to fast-track consideration of the replacement without the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis which could have taken another week or so.

The new American Health Care Act could face a dramatic overhaul over in the Senate where members are in no big hurry to bring it to the floor. A number of senators from both parties are concerned by analyses that the legislation would significantly cut federal subsidies for people between 50 and 65 especially in rural areas. Senators also question the potential amount of profit for insurance companies in the House bill.

Tax Reform

Revising the Internal Revenue Service tax code is a priority for President Trump. Job creation, economic growth and helping low-and-middle-income families who have been left behind by the economy were three priorities of the Trump

campaign. Looking back to the Reagan era when tax cuts sparked the economy, the administration is again proposing major revisions to the tax code. The major code changes in the President’s proposal are:

- Reduce the current seven tax brackets to three at 10 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent
- Double the standard deduction so a married couple pays no tax on the first \$24,000 of income
- Set the top capital gains rate at 20 percent
- Increase tax benefits for families paying for child and dependent-care
- Repeal the death tax
- Eliminate most tax breaks that mainly benefit high income individuals
- Lower the business tax rate to 15 percent
- Levy a one-time tax on overseas profits to encourage capital investment and job creation in the United States
- Of course, any tax code reform proposal will have to be passed by the House and Senate where it will undergo intense scrutiny and possible revisions. Tax reform is on Congress’ priority list and should begin moving through the process soon.

Trade

It seems as though Secretary Perdue has convinced President Trump to use a scalpel instead of a meat cleaver to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The Secretary apparently explained the disastrous economic and political implications of terminating NAFTA outright after which the President committed to ...”give renegotiation a good, strong shot.” Perdue said the three highest priorities for agriculture he heard during his Senate confirmation process were “trade, trade, trade.” Ag groups were increasingly concerned with the President’s talk of scraping NAFTA. Both Canada’s prime minister and Mexico’s president weighed in to persuade him to reconsider. Private and government economic analyses of totally dumping NAFTA show the big winners to be the services industry, IT and the biologics industry. Big losers would be agriculture and the automotive industry.

Taking H-2A Reform to the Hill

BY: LAURIE BARNHART

Those of you who have journeyed to DC for legislative visits know what the challenges can be. To make a DC trip productive takes at least two months of planning which includes emails, phone calls, scheduling, rescheduling, hotel reservations, etc. It can be a daunting task, but the trip our Grange staff made this month was extremely beneficial and well worth the preparation time.

Our mission: To voice to Congress our ongoing concerns with the failed H-2A Guest Worker program. With the ongoing shortage of agriculture labor, our farmers are desperate for an H-2A guest worker program that works. That was the gist of our message that we took to DC. We were able to visit with Congressman David Rouzer, Congressman McHenry (Deputy Majority Whip), the staff of Sen. Tillis, Sen. Burr, Congresswoman Foxx, Congresswoman Adams, and Congressman Hudson. The takeaway we received from the NC Delegation was the absolute necessity of securing the border. Until this is done, revamping the H-2A program will be difficult. Border security of course is one of President Trump’s top agenda items. The consensus was our NC Delegation was totally onboard with the need for H-2A reform and restructuring to hopefully make a more user friendly, flexible and less regulated program.



JIMMY GENTRY, LAURIE BARNHART, ASHLEY PEKRL, RAY STARLING, JEFF BARNHART

The highlight of our trip was meeting with Ray Starling, the Special Assistant to President Trump for Agriculture, Trade and Food Assistance. Many of you know Ray, a North Carolina boy born and raised in Sampson County. Before taking this position Ray served as Sen. Tillis’ Chief Counsel and then-Speaker Tillis’ General Counsel and Senior Agriculture Advisor in the N.C. General Assembly. He has been the General Counsel for the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Ray’s current position with President Trump has gone unfilled for the last eight years. We could not be prouder for having Ray representing not only North Carolina but the United States in Agriculture in this most critical position. Without a doubt Ray will work diligently to ease the labor shortage program for farmers throughout our country.

In Memoriam

Ms. Edna Crotts

Associate Member

Mr. Edward Ray Edwards

Beaufort County

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.
Psalm 118:28 * 50 Year Member*

Do you know what motivational coin has the potential to be the most costly “coin” to you? We would see or be given one of the balsa wood coins every once in a while, typically with the verbiage on its face and some firm’s advertising on the back. They were a good conversation piece as well as object lesson. But more about the coin a little later

Spring is waning into early summer as we approach the half way-point of 2017. Here is another thought provoking question. Remember those resolutions and goals we all set in January for this year? How are you doing on those goals and resolutions now? Did you get started them, or push them back until later. Did you start some of those goals with fervor and now they are just a lack luster thought? In any case, it is time for a review, and possible adjustment to our plan(s). The year is quickly passing, evidenced with our college and high school senior’s graduating, folks getting married, babies being born, as well as some of the unpleasant life events – all causing a potential need for adjustments in our plans.

Looking at these life events, we need to review our insurance portfolio to make sure the safety net they provide remain positioned underneath us. At lot of our plans are static and have the potential of not being appropriate for our current need(s) because of certain life changes. This requires periodic compressive review of all our insurance plans – life, income replacement, retirement annuities, long-term care, etc, and not just one or two because they should all

work together to accomplish the goals and plans you and your family have mapped out. Just like the various parts of your car, they all have a different function, but by working together, you are able to drive the car where you need to go. Just having an engine by itself will not get you too far. You have to have all the basic components of a car if you want to use it to get to your destination. It is the same with your insurance portfolio where you typically need more than a life insurance policy.

Leading back to my original question, what is the one thing that we have all said when we have a task that we are not anxious to complete? When you combine this saying with prolonged procrastination, you have a potential catastrophic situation. If you have not already guessed the saying, it is “When I get around to it.” Unfortunately, when the opportunities of life pass by and close, we do not have a rewind where we can recapture that lost opportunity. Missing the opportunities to put the appropriate insurance safety net for our family’s protection can have devastating results.

Being in the profession for many years now, I have heard consistently that you really find out how good or bad your insurance really is when you need it. Our NC Grange Insurance Team stands ready to make sure that your family’s safety net is secure, and you have confidence that you have the best insurance plan for your unique situation! Do not just wait until you get a “round to it”.

SOUTHERN PIEDMONT POMONA MILITARY MUSEUM

BY: JANET FULTON

In honor of May being National Military Recognition Month, our Pomona Grange recently visited The Price of Freedom Military Museum in China Grove, NC. It was an amazing and informative display.



CORRIHER GRANGE 75 YEAR MEMBERS

BY: VINNIE DUNCAN

Corriher Grange honored two members with their 75 year recognition from the National Grange on May 6. The National Grange is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. The Grange is a grassroots, community service, family organization with a special interest in agriculture. The foundation of the organization is the Community Grange, which can be found in rural, suburban and urban communities across the country. Corriher Grange provides the opportunity, the people provide leadership and the community reaps the benefits. President David Allen welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Shelby Karriker followed with devotions.

Jimmy Gentry, NC Grange President, presented the 75 year member recognitions to Kenneth Corriher and Philip Sloop. Both gentlemen remain active in the community. Paul Campbell received 70 year recognition. Jo and Henry Starnes were recognized as 50 yr members, but unable to attend the meeting. Several members were recognized in April: Hoke Karriker -70 years and 50 year members-Lenora and Clement Bost and Jerry Karriker.

Doug Patterson, VP of Patterson Farm, and President of the NC Strawberry Growers Association told the story of their family farming business. Doug spoke about strawberries, as well as tomatoes, the petting zoo and school field trips. He addressed concerns of all fruit and vegetable farmers—the weather, changing business trends, and labor issues.

Everyone enjoyed Patterson Farm strawberries and pound cake for refreshments.

Corriher’s next meeting will be on Saturday, June 3, 7 pm at the home of Adele Goodman. Learn more about the Western Rowan Barn Quilt Trail in our communities and your genealogy at the meeting.

Representing the Grange in DC

BY: DARBY MADEWELL

I had the honor of receiving the Grange Grassroots Activism Award this year, which allowed me to travel to Washington, DC, in April to attend the 2017 National Grange Legislative Fly In. It was a very busy few days of participating in an educational legislative experience.

As the Fly-In began on Monday morning, April 24, we heard about the issues the National Grange is focusing on: rural broadband, the 2018 Farm Bill, healthcare, infrastructure and more. Throughout the event, we had the opportunity to meet with our own senators and representatives, as well as Jay Schwarz, Advisor to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai.

The current issues to watch, and the issues I focused on in my meetings, are rural broadband and net neutrality. Often, we take for granted our free access to the Internet and the aspects of our daily lives that require connectivity. It isn’t just using Google or sending an email; it’s rural hospitals’ access to medical files, students’ access to a quality education, and farmers’ access to smart farming technology. As President Trump unveils his plans for infrastructure changes and Ajit Pai moves to limit FCC control over telecommunications, Internet access could change drastically.

The National Grange Fly-In was an incredible opportunity to become educated about the Grange’s legislative issues and exercise our rights as citizens. Each staffer I spoke to said the same thing: continue taking advantage of opportunities to get involved through the Grange; continue to educate ourselves; and remain respectful of those around you. I would encourage anyone with any interest to apply for the Grange Grassroots Activism Award and to reach out to me with any questions!



2017 NEW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



KIRSTEN CASH
TROUTMAN
GRANGE

NC STATE



ZAC MAZAG
TROUTMAN
GRANGE

UNC CHARLOTTE



NADIA PUNT
TROUTMAN
GRANGE

UNDECIDED



CLAY RAPP
ARCADIA
GRANGE

DAVIDSON
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



CELEAHA SWAIM
TROUTMAN
GRANGE

CATAWBA
COLLEGE



Kirsten Cash

Grange: Troutman **Age:** 17
Hometown: Mooresville, NC
Hobbies: Cheerleading, shadowing vet-clinics, learning new things about the world.
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Getting to know more Grangers and and spending time with them.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
The people and how everyone is basically family.
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Life-Changing



Marcus Avendano

Grange: So. Wake **Age:** 20
Hometown: Raleigh, NC
Hobbies: Reading, drawing, and hiking trails
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Working with a great group, collecting ideas and creating something new together.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
The sense of family and how I'm always wanted and accepted
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Community



Katie Leonard

Grange: Arcadia **Age:** 19
Hometown: Clemmons, NC
Hobbies: Eno-ing, hiking, hanging out with my sorority
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Working on this new team together to come up with a great camp this summer.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
The family feeling I get from my friends.
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Family



Hannah Bright

Grange: Troutman **Age:** 17
Hometown: Huntersville, NC
Hobbies: Runing, hiking, Netflix, hanging out with friends
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Getting closer with my team and planning camp this summer.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
All the close friendships I have with people all over the state.
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Friendship



Landon Woolard

Grange: Beaufort Co. **Age:** 19
Hometown: Washington, NC
Hobbies: Basketball, hanging out with friends
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Being Ambassador and getting to use all the skills I have learned in the past to help lead this year's team.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
Getting to meet so many different people.
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Memorable



Zac Mazag

Grange: Troutman **Age:** 18
Hometown: Troutman, NC
Hobbies: Bowling, golf & Grange
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Making this the most unforgettable year
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
The friends I make. I'm closer to my Grange friends than some of my school friends, even though I only see them a few times a year
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Unforgettable



Margie Griffin

Grange: Troutman **Age:** 19
Hometown: Mooresville, NC
Hobbies: Reading, writing & drawing
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Working with this team and to make this year's camp unforgettable.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
The lifelong friendships I have made and the strong sense of family even after months apart.
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Home



Amber Long

Grange: Bushy Fork **Age:** 16
Hometown: Timberlake, NC
Hobbies: Running, coloring, spending time with friends
What are you most excited about this year while serving on the team?
Making memories and having an awesome Grange Camp.
What is your favorite thing about the Grange?
How loving and accepting everyone is.
One word you use to describe the Grange?
Inspiring

BY: LAURIE BARNHART



We all have felt the comfort of a warm blanket whether it was our Mother covering us when we were children, a kind nurse draping a warm blanket over us prior to surgery or wrapping ourselves in an old quilt on a snowy day with a cup of hot chocolate. So it was with Catherine Roberts....

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded on a dream—a dream that Catherine Roberts had about her son Nat who was deployed in Iraq in 2003.

“The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and wellbeing. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing. The model appeared simple: have a volunteer team who would donate their time and materials to make a quilt. One person would piece the top and the other would quilt it. I saw the name for this special quilt. It was a Quilt of Valor, a QOV.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

From the time the Grange was founded, supporting our Veterans has been a priority. When Vinnie Duncan, a NC State Grange Board member, became

familiar with the Quilts of Valor program she was determined to involve our Granges. Two of our Grange members have received a Quilt of Valor. Mr. Philip Sloop of

Corriher Grange was honored with a Quilt at his 100th birthday in December 2016 and Mr. Hoke Karriker (Corriher Grange) received his Quilt at a Quilt of Valor Presentation on April 26 in Concord. Mr. Paul Campbell, again of Corriher Grange will receive one in June. All of these gentlemen served in WWII. The Quilt of Valor Foundation is hoping to honor as many WWII veterans as possible since they are our oldest group of living veterans. It is our hope that our North Carolina Granges will not only request Quilts of Valor to honor our Veterans but become involved with actually assembling the quilts as a Grange volunteer community project. As your State Program Director I would like to support your Granges on implementing this project.

The first step would be to visit the Quilts of Valor website at <http://www.qovf.org/about-qovf/qov-history/>. There is quite a bit of information about the Foundation, its origin and how you can become involved as a volunteer. From reading the information on the website volunteering your Grange to piece squares would be a great contribution. Once the squares are completed, the top can be completed by Grangers or a Quilt of Valor group in your area. Due to the numbers of Quilts being requested, most all quilts are stitched on a longarm machine. It is important to make contact with someone in your local area or the director in North Carolina to go forward.



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