

The official publication of the NC Grange

July / August 2019

GRANGE NEWS

*Grange
Camp
2019*



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12-15	State Convention Durham, NC
October 15-17	Sunbelt Expo Moultrie, GA
November 5-9	National Convention Minneapolis, MN

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

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A NOTE FROM JIMMY:

C O N T R O V E R S Y

A significant controversy has arisen in the General Assembly over a potential new crop that farmers are now allowed to produce in North Carolina, which is hemp. During my childhood I can remember products that we used on the farm made from hemp such as rope and sacks. Hemp is so closely related to marijuana that it became illegal to grow it in the United States. Recent laws have eased restrictions on hemp, allowing it to be grown in those states that have chosen to develop the industry. During the last few years, hemp production has been discussed in a number of meetings that I have attended, with some thinking that it could be a new viable crop for farmers to produce. Over 900 farmers are now licensed to grow hemp in our state. It is being produced for the production of fiber and CBD oil, but it is also available in a smokable form. The use of CBD oil has become popular among some because it is believed to have medicinal qualities. The same goes for smokable hemp. Hemp does not produce the “high” that marijuana does because it does not contain as much THC (Tetrahydrocannabinols).

A piece of legislation being considered known as the 2019 Farm Act has a section to establish laws for the hemp industry in the state. It passed the Senate and is being considered in the

House. There has been an effort to ban hemp smoking, while allowing other products such as fiber and oil to be marketed. Law enforcement has objected to hemp smoking because they cannot tell the difference between hemp being smoked and marijuana. Those involved in the hemp industry are generally supportive of allowing hemp to be smoked because it is part of their market. Some who have testified have indicated that banning the smoking of hemp will decimate the industry. Many of those opposed fear that allowing hemp to be smoked could lead to the legalization of marijuana.

The State Grange has been okay with the establishment of hemp as a new crop. Because we do not have policy regarding the smoking of hemp, we have stayed out of the fray. There is still one more committee to consider the Farm Bill in the House before it goes to the floor for a vote. It is very possible that this legislation will have been acted upon by the time you get this copy of Grange News. However, as controversial as this issue has been, there very well could be adjustments made in a future General Assembly.



CAPE FEAR GRANGE MONTH ACTIVITIES

WINDOW AND GARDEN PROJECTS by: Ken Plummer

On April 17, members of the Cape Fear Grange replaced a picture window in a home in Fayetteville, NC that experienced water damage during Hurricane Florence in September 2018. The project was completed in coordination with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), who helped to identify the family in need. UMCOR also provided funding for the replacement window. Many areas in the Sandhills region of our state are still recovering from massive damage due to the storm.



and case management for soldiers that have been injured during their service with the U.S. Army. We could think of no better way to represent the NC Grange than by helping to improve the surroundings of those veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. This project was coordinated and hosted by Jack Dewar, a retired Colonel who has served as a long-time volunteer for the gardens.

Pictured in the Middle: Cape Fear Grange members assisting with the window installation project from left to right,

Later in Grange Month, on April 27, Cape Fear Grange members removed weeds and worked to beautify the Warrior Transition Battalion Gardens on Fort Bragg. The Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) provides command and control, primary care,

Richard Everett, David Fowler, Al Miller and Wayne Stack. Picture at the top of the Page: Richard Everett, Julia Stack, Lois Plummer and Ken Plummer in front of a section of the WTB Gardens that their Grange helped to beautify.

GRANGE CAMP 2019



GRANGE CAMP 2019

BY JENNIE GENTRY

When I was growing up, I often felt like I didn't really fit in anywhere, especially during my awkward teenage years. I had friends, but I never felt like I belonged anywhere. There was only one place where I truly felt like I could be me, where I felt like I was loved and accepted for being my true self. And that was in Grange, especially at Grange Camp which was the highlight of my year. It was home.

Here I am many years later, and it is such a reward for me to hear today's Grange youth say the exact same thing...that Grange feels like "home." It also warms my heart that those friends that impacted my life so greatly growing up in the Grange are now right there beside me at camp, serving as counselors and watching camp have the same impact on their own kids because it still feels like home.

This year's Grange Camp was called "Home on the Grange," which celebrated being at a place where youth can feel loved and feel confident being themselves. Held again this year at the beautiful Eastern 4-H Center, campers enjoyed an epic

week of camp that started Sunday, July 7 with a rainy storm, but ended on Saturday, July 13 with incredible friendships. It was definitely a fun, memorable and impactful week for all of our campers.

Grange Camp was also a week to help campers have a safe place to dream big and to feel bold about going for their goals and dreams in life. There's a popular quote that says, "There is no idea too wild and no dream too big." Campers were reminded of this daily by the State Youth Leadership Team who helped teach our campers that they should always dream big. At the end of the week, the team gave each camper a glow-in-the-dark star that said "dream big," reminding them to never be scared to go for their goals and dreams in life.

Another big part of camp this year was our Junior Leadership Team made up of Cade Howerton (Bushy Fork Grange), and Brylie Newton, Skylar Newton and Lillie Spratling, all of St. John's Grange. These young leaders helped lead activities during the week and songs at meals as part of a unique leadership experience, doing an amazing job.

Throughout the week, campers enjoyed a variety of daily camp activities such as kayaking, group games, ropes courses, giant swing, crabbing, wall climbing, swimming, archery, team building, leadership, and more. They also enjoyed group challenges throughout the week as part of the "Battle By the Bay" competition. Groups competed in a variety of activities with one group emerging as the week's champions. This year's youth champion was the group Faith, led by counselors Jason Cameron, Micalah Bright and Rylee Furr, and Youth Team members Nick Jones and Ashley Drop. The Purple Group led by Jessica Horton, Charles Howerton and Jennifer Suther were named the Junior champions.

Campers also participated in a community service project during the week. They decorated lunch bags for desserts and special treats for Meals on Wheels, and made cards for sick patients in hospitals around the country. It was so sweet watching our campers putting love into these projects.



After daily activities, campers joined each evening for camp's traditional events. Sunday night brought fun get-acquainted games led by the Youth Team. Monday night held our famous Great Grange Challenge where campers raced in a round robin of team building water activities on the sports field, which also ended in a giant "water fight." On Tuesday night, campers enjoyed the annual Talent Show and "Wild West" costume night. Wednesday night held our traditional Skit Night when each group performs a skit, giving everyone many laughs.

Thursday night, campers demonstrated their leadership skills at Model Grange Night. State Officers and Drill Team leaders performed their duties by opening and closing the Grange meeting in ritual form. Our State Youth President, Amber Long of Bushy Fork Grange, led the youth officers in the Grange opening with Tyler Leonard and Ashley Drop (both of Arcadia Grange) leading the Officer Drill as the Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward. Their drill was created by Lillie Griffin of Troutman Grange. An intricate Youth Drill was also performed, led by Jacob Roquet and Abby Gentry.

The Junior Officers also performed the Junior Opening and Closing of the Grange led by State Junior President, Peyton Trexler of St. John's Grange. The Junior Officer Drill was led by Nick Cameron and Julia Westbrook, who served as the Junior Assistants. All officers truly stood out, demonstrating phenomenal leadership skills.

At our annual Friday evening Awards Ceremony, trophies were presented to each Junior Camper for superlatives chosen by their group counselors. Nick Cameron and Gigi Stone were crowned the Junior Camp Prince and Princess, and with a new, special addition to the awards, Juniors Jack Spratling and Sarah Anderson were crowned Little Prince and Princess. Counselors also selected special awards that will be presented at September's State Convention. The Junior Counselors Award was given to Josh Moore and Makenna Seymore. The Junior Grange Leadership Award was given to Cade Howerton and Lillie Spratling. The highest honor, the Hunt Best All Around Camper Award, was presented to Peyton Trexler (St. John's Grange) and Kayla Laws (Bushy Fork Grange).

Youth Awards were also presented, starting with superlatives, which were selected by their peers. Tyler Leonard (Arcadia Grange) and Amber Long (Bushy Fork Grange) were crowned this year's Grange Camp King and Queen. (The full list of youth superlatives is included with this article.) Counselors also selected special youth awards that will be presented at the State Convention in September. The Counselors Award was given to Asheton Medlin and Jacob Roquet. The Grange Leadership Award was awarded to Nick Jones and Amber Long. The highest honor, the President's Best Camper Award, was presented to Cole Settle (Little Mountain Grange) and Baylor Howerton (Bushy Fork Grange). All campers did a wonderful job throughout the week! The Awards Ceremony was followed by a camp slideshow, dancing and a sentimental candlelight ceremony that was led by our Youth Team. It was a very special night to end our incredible week together.

The week was made possible due to the excellent leadership and creativity of our 2019 State Youth Leadership Team, who helped plan the camp activities and theme. Made up of Ashley Drop, Hannah Gentry, Baylor Howerton, Nick Jones, Tyler Leonard, James Lesley, Amber Long and Cole Settle, the team truly stood out as outstanding, charismatic leaders who made a strong, lasting impact on our campers.

Our incredible Grange Counselors are also attributed for the week's success. We thank them for their hard work and for volunteering their time to help make a difference. Without them, camp would not be the amazing camp that it is. Special thanks are also given to all of our local Granges and individuals who helped sponsor and pay for campers to attend this special week.

Grange Camp is such a unique, life-changing experience for campers whose lives are positively impacted in so many special ways. Campers develop very close friendships, with many referring to those friends as their "second family." It is a place where kids come out of their shells, build relationships, work together and accept each other. Most importantly, it is a place where campers can completely be themselves...a place they can call home.



LOCAL AND STATE GRANGES DONATE TO WCC ANIMAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

by: Wilkes Community College

WILKESBORO, N.C. – The Ferguson Grange, the Little Mountain Grange along with matching funds from the North Carolina State Grange, donated \$1,000 to the WCC Animal Science Program Club that will be used for the Swine Production program. Frank Blevins, Animal Science/Horticulture instructor stated, “The donation will be put back into the swine program to be used for upgrading the facility as well as the watering and feeder system.”

In the spring 2019 semester, students conducted research on five pigs to determine the ratio of feed needed for each pound of weight gained. Students visited the farm five days a week checking on the water and feed for the pigs. The entire class visited weekly to weigh the pigs.

During the weekly visits to the farm, Zelotese Walsh, 95 of the Boomer community, visited with the students and shared his knowledge of swine production. Walsh was raised on a farm and was involved in swine production throughout his farming career. Tony Jones stated, “It’s been a wonderful project and has been beneficial to have someone with that type of knowledge to share with the students.”

Frank Blevins, WCC Animal Science instructor stated, “Tony Jones was instrumental in getting this project started. He not only donated the use of his family’s farm, he initiated the conversation with Bartlett Feed Company in Statesville, N.C. about purchasing the feed for the pigs. After discussing the project with Bartlett, they agreed to provide all the feed for the research project. In exchange, Bartlett will use the students research findings with their customers to demonstrate the nutritional factors of their feed.” Blevins added, “Representatives from Bartlett Feed came to the college and discussed immediate job openings with students as well as potential summer internships.”

Matthew Greene, Animal Science lead instructor stated, “From this project, we have made connections with the grange, local vendors for pigs, as well as industry partners. Working with the live animals has shown what the college can do to create future opportunities for the students.”

Jimmy Gentry, President of NC Grange stated, “The grange is the oldest agriculture organization in the nation. We have always been supportive of agriculture education and are pleased that this donation is a three-way partnership between the Little Mountain Grange, Ferguson Grange, and the N.C. State Grange. I am impressed with what is happening here at Wilkes Community College and the plans for the future.”

The Ferguson Grange was chartered in 1932, making it 87 years old and has a current membership of 30 individuals. Members of the Ferguson Grange are residents of Caldwell and Wilkes Counties.

The Little Mountain Grange was chartered in 1929, making it 90 years old, with a current membership of 51 individuals. Members of the Little Mountain Grange are residents of four counties, Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, and Forsyth.

The North Carolina Grange was officially recognized in 1875 but hit its stride after re-organizing in 1929. The war was over, the Depression had ended, and our state’s isolated farm families needed a place to come together. Through local events, education, renewed community spirit, and the encouragement to be more tolerant of others with different political and religious beliefs, the Grange helped neighbors and communities come together. People received help getting on their feet through training and cooperative buying and selling among members. When schools needed help, the Grange stepped in there too. In some cases, even running them. Our members were instrumental in the development of 4-H and Future Farmers of America and worked to ensure North Carolina’s farming communities would emerge stronger than ever.

Animal science is the science and business of producing livestock such as beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, goats, swine, and other careers related to the animal science industry. The Applied Animal Science Technology program at Wilkes Community College gives students the foundation they need to begin a career in the animal science industry.

Wilkes Community College, a member of the North Carolina Community College System, is a public, two-year, open-door institution serving the people of Wilkes, Ashe and Alleghany counties and beyond. Established in 1965, WCC continues to build on a strong history of meeting the educational needs and cultural interests of our students, community and workforce. WCC prepares learners for success in a dynamic world.



DALE THREATT-TAYLOR A CONSERVATION EVANGELIST

by: Laurie Barnhart

Dale Threat-Taylor was one of the first members I met when I joined Capitol Grange six years ago. Her enthusiasm not only for conservation but for life itself was totally infectious. I admired her from the moment we met. To add to her achievements, Dale was most recently appointed by Gov. Cooper as Member-at-Large for the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The NC Grange is extremely proud of Dale, who serves as Director of the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District and Wake County Soil and Water Conservation. Dale is a perfect example of the meaning of what a Grange member personifies; she cares for the land, her community, and most importantly, her faith.

Dale received a Bachelor of Science in Conservation from NC State University in 1991 and a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University in 2011. In 2012, she was selected as one of 30 agriculturalists in North Carolina identified to participate in the Agricultural Leadership Development Program at NC State. In 2016, Dale was elected to a national board of directors, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, as the Southeast Regional Director. She represents 12 states and the US Caribbean Territories. She is also the Past President of the North Carolina Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society and Past President of the Wake County Agribusiness Council.

In 2018, North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognized Dale with their Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contribution to the conservation of Natural Resources and nicknamed her the "Conservation Evangelist." And most recently, in 2019, Dale received the Dr. Maurice G. Cook Superior Service Award from the Hugh Hammond Bennett (NC) Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

For nine years, Dale served on the Conservation Trust for North Carolina Board of Directors, many as the Chair of the Diversity and Equity Committee. She also served seven years on Triangle Land Conservancy's Board of Directors. Dale continues her trek in conservation leadership as Vice-Chair of the City of Oaks Foundation Board of Trustees. She has served in many other leadership roles including environmental committees for Duke Energy and Triangle Community Foundation and as Sunday School Superintendent at Oak City Baptist Church for over 20 years.

Dale's daily goal is to make sure that Soil and Water Conservation is the most effective department in Wake County Government, helping both land and landowner. Her long-range goal is that Wake will be the best Soil and Water Conservation District in the nation. Dale wants everyone in the city, county, state and nation to understand that locally led conservation begins with an individual, and that all our conservation work matters.



2019 YOUTH SUPERLATIVES

King:	Tyler Leonard
Queen:	Amber Long
Best All Around	
Female:	Ashley Drop
Male:	Cole Settle
Best Role Model	
Female:	Hannah Gentry
Male:	Nick Jones
Grange Spirit Award	
Female:	Karly Denning
Male:	Brandon Medlin
Mr. and Miss Congeniality	
Female:	Asheton Medlin
Male:	Trey Hayes
Best Personality	
Female:	Faydra Lackey
Male:	Carson Lackey
Unsung Hero	
Female:	Jessica Cameron
Male:	Riley Dew
Most Outstanding Leader	
Female:	Baylor Howerton
Male:	James Lesley
Most Unforgettable	
Female:	Faith Harris
Male:	Julius Locklear
Most Fun to Be Around	
Female:	Olivia Barber
Male:	Jacob Roquet
Best 1st Year Camper	
Female:	Jodie Horne
Male:	Brady Marley
President's Best Camper Award	
Female:	Baylor Howerton
Male:	Cole Settle
Youth Director's Award:	
Female:	Lillee Roquet
Male:	Brandon Medlin
Grange Leadership Award	
Female:	Amber Long
Male:	Nick Jones
Counselors Award:	
Female:	Asheton Medlin
Male:	Jacob Roquet

2019 JUNIOR SUPERLATIVES

Hunt Best Camper Award	
Female:	Kayla Laws
Male:	Peyton Trexler
Grange Leadership Award	
Female:	Lillie Spratling
Male:	Cade Howerton
Counselors Award	
Female:	Makenna Seymore
Male:	Josh Moore
Prince:	Nick Cameron
Princess:	GiGi Stone
Little Prince:	Jack Spratling
Little Princess:	Sarah Anderson

CAPITOL NEWS

by: *Larrie Barnhart*

Unpredictable would be the best word to describe this legislative session. Countless times I have heard General Assembly members, staffers and lobbyists comment that this session has been unlike any they have ever experienced. It seemed to start slow, but in April things picked up rapidly. Things moved at such a fast pace that it was hard to schedule meeting times to see legislators.

The NC General Assembly will readjourn in late summer after a recess, which gives budget writers the opportunity to work out a compromise with Governor Cooper, who's veto has yet to be overridden by the General Assembly. The predominant reason for the stall is the Governor's demand for Medicaid Expansion. HB655, the NC Health Care for Working Families Act introduced by Republican Members, is a proposed version of Medicaid Expansion with some work requirements included. This bill passed the House Health Committee meeting with a strong 25-6 bipartisan vote but is stalled on the House floor along with HB966, the 2019 Appropriations Act. If enough Democratic votes can be garnered in the House for a veto override on the budget, then the House leadership will also allow HB655 to be heard on the floor and it will pass. Both bills would then go to the Senate. The Senate has less of an appetite for passing any form of Medicaid expansion. There are multiple other scenarios which could play out over the coming weeks as things stay interesting in the capitol city.

At the NC Grange's 2018 State Convention, a resolution was passed to close the Medicaid gap. HB655 would achieve this. As an overview, the NC Health Care for Working Families bill (HB655) creates an affordable insurance product for working adults making below 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Subscribers must pay monthly premiums and low copayments, and they must show a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. The program will not cost the state any money and will bring in revenue for rural health grants. Legislators championing the bill include Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth); Rep. Josh Dobson (R-McDowell); Rep. Dr. Greg Murphy (R-Pitt); and Rep. Donna McDowell White (R-Johnston), along with 22 other cosponsors from both parties.

Eligible participants of the Working Families Act are adult residents of North Carolina, ages 19-64, who are committed to a healthy lifestyle with income up to 133% of FPL and are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid. Participants would pay monthly premiums, set at 2% of household income. For example, a family of 4 earning \$32,319 each year would pay \$53.86 per

month. Premium exemptions go to persons who make below 50% FPL, members of federal tribes, veterans in transition, and people with medical or financial hardships. As for work requirements, participants must be working or engaged in activities to promote employment. However, work exemptions would include persons who are caring for minors or disabled/ elderly parents; persons who are receiving treatment for substance abuse; medically frail; pregnant or post-partum women; Indian Health Services participants; and any category exempt under Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

To fund the Working Families Act, 90% of funds will come from the federal government. The remaining 10% will come from participant contributions and an assessment on hospitals and other providers. The program will end if the plan is not approved by CMS, if federal funding changes, or if any funding sources are insufficient. Legislation will also create a new Rural Access to Healthcare Grant Program which will make awards of up to \$1 million toward provider recruitment and retention, telehealth, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and infant mortality reduction efforts. (Source: NC Rural Center's Weekly Legislative Update, 7/19/2019)

The 2019 NC Farm Act (Senate Bill 352) is also moving through the NC General Assembly. The Act contains language regarding hemp production in North Carolina. Smokable Hemp has become extremely controversial because it is indistinguishable from marijuana. A legislative fight over hemp production in North Carolina shifted from a farming bill to a measure on illegal drugs as a House committee voted to classify smokable hemp as a controlled substance. Smokable hemp was the focus of two House Committees. The Finance Committee considered the annual Farm Act and the Judiciary Committee debated changes to the state's Controlled Substances Act.

A rewrite to SB352 would tweak the definition of marijuana in state statutes to include smokable hemp. Processed hemp products and extracts such as CBD oil would remain legal in North Carolina under the proposal. Smokable hemp became legal last year when the federal government loosened its restrictions to boost the wider hemp industry, which creates a range of products including rope, clothes, paper, food and CBD oil. The hemp flower contains CBD, a compound that many people believe has a range of medicinal qualities, but only minuscule amounts of THC, the compound that produces marijuana's characteristic high. The problem is that the smokable flower looks and smells like marijuana, and police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors around the state have said that if the legislature keeps smokable hemp legal, marijuana might as well be legal. Law enforcement isn't just worried about it being harder to enforce marijuana laws but about losing probable cause for searches based on the smell of

marijuana smoke, or when a drug dog keys in on a vehicle. Hemp farmers have said that the smokable flower is the most profitable part of their business. The 2019 Farm Act passed the House Finance Committee on a 16-11 vote. (Source: Laura Leslie and Matthew Burns, WRAL NEWS, 7/17/19)

In other news, Sen. Brent Jackson (R-Sampson) was elected to serve as president of the State Agriculture and Rural Leaders (SARL) group at its 2019 summit. SARL is an international group of leaders from across the United States and Canada who come together to confer and discuss issues that North America agriculture is facing. We thank Sen. Jackson for his service to North Carolina and his leadership internationally in agriculture.

NATIONAL GRANGE VIEW FROM THE HILL

By: Burton Eller, National Legislative Director

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

New Dairy Insurance Sign Up Begins

The new Dairy Margin Coverage program sign up began June 17 at the Farm Service Agency offices nationwide. The DMC, created by the 2018 farm bill, is designed to provide protection for dairy farmers when the margin between milk and feed prices reaches a certain threshold. The DMC offers a wider coverage spread than the former Margin Protection Program and is intended to benefit small-scale dairy producers.

FDA Drops Proposed “Added Sugar” Label

The Food and Drug Administration has scrapped its bid to require honey and maple syrup to be labeled as sources of added sugars in food products. The added sugar proposed rule was strongly opposed by several state Granges and the National Grange who argued that the added sugar line would have misled consumers. These products still must include the percent Daily Value of total sugar to ensure consumers have information how these products contribute to their total diet.

USDA Lengthens Haying and Grazing Time

The USDA’s Risk Management Agency will allow haying and grazing on prevented planted acres to begin on September 1, two months sooner than the normal date of November 1. This one-year change is a result of the excessive rain and unprecedented flooding that kept producers from planting traditional crops this spring. Farmers and ranchers, particularly in northern tier states, are very pleased with this new development. The date change had support from farm groups and bipartisan support on Capitol Hill.

Feral Swine Causing Nationwide Problems

Feral swine or “wild hogs” have grown into a huge problem for landowners, farmers and ranchers, orchardists and many more. Wild hogs adapt to just about any habitat, have few natural

enemies and reproduce at high rates. They uproot almost anything, destroy ecosystems and spread organisms harmful to human health like E. coli, salmonella and leptospirosis. The 2018 Farm Bill included authorization and funding for a new pilot program for control and eradication jointly administered by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Pilot projects will target states throughout the South and Southeast which have the highest feral swine population densities and associated damages in the country.

HEALTH CARE

Health Care Transparency

President Trump signed an Executive Order June 24 the White House states will improve price and quality transparency in health care with these key points: 1) The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will require hospitals to publicly disclose amounts that reflect what patients actually pay for services in an easy to read format. 2) HHS will require insurance companies to provide patients information on cost of care and out-of-pocket costs before they receive services. 3) The Administration will improve quality measurements across all federal health care programs and make them public. Researchers and developers will get more access to federal health care data. There will be expanded benefit options of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and other tax-preferred health accounts.

Pneumonia Vaccination Important

The National Grange joined ten other health, consumer and patient groups to urge the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the CDC to recommend the continuation of coverage for pneumococcal vaccinations by insurance plans and Medicare. Nearly one million cases of pneumonia are reported each year which result in 400,000 hospitalizations and 20,000-30,000 deaths. A large percentage of these deaths are seniors.

More Concern About Imported Drugs

The National Grange teamed with the New York State Grange and seventeen other patient advocacy organizations to relay ongoing concerns about the risks of imported drugs to the sponsors of drug importation legislation in the New York State Legislature. The cosigned letter to sponsors of the legislation stressed the many risks that outweigh any benefits.

Don’t Curtail Critical Innovations

Texas Senator Cornyn and Connecticut Senator Blumenthal recently introduced the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act, S. 1416, to curb the anti-competitive use of patents to protect prescription drugs and prevent generic and biosimilar competition. While well intended, the bill is overly expansive in that its broad provisions could limit the variety of therapeutic

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



GOTCHA COVERED

HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO?

by: Mark Davis

In this article, we are retracing some thoughts from the March/April “Gotcha Covered” article that dealt with Long Term Care Insurance. In that article, we covered some of the myths of Long Term Care and the realities of the cost.

Over the past few months, I have been re-exposed to several products available to cover long-term care cost should the need arise. One of the major objections to the purchase of Long Term Care Insurance is, “What if I never have any long term care expenses? Then the money that was spent on premiums goes down the drain.” Admittedly, this is a concern that I also struggle with. We all want to see our hard-earned dollars benefit ourselves, our spouse, our children or other beneficiaries when we are gone, hence the title to this article. Is there a way to have your cake and eat it too? In today’s long-term care insurance market, that is possible in some cases. There are at least three carriers that offer a hybrid plan. If you are blessed, and do not require long term care services during your lifetime, then your beneficiary receives the life insurance proceeds of your insurance policy. Here is an example of a case we presented recently. We quoted a 10 year payment plan to a man that would pay up to four times the total of all premiums scheduled in monthly cash installments up to a 72 month period as long as he needed long term care. In the event of his death, his widow is to receive the life insurance proceeds less any Long Term Care payments received by the insured. This individual parlayed roughly \$125,000 into almost \$500,000 available for Long Term Care expenses, and if he does not need extended care, his widow receives approximately \$175,000 in life insurance proceeds, less any LTC benefits paid to the insured. When we look at CD rates today, our “idle” cash is not capable of leveraging that kind of benefit or handling that workload for us. For this family, the business is paying the premium which amounts to approximately less than two months of Long Term Care cost in the area where he lives. With the tax benefit of expensing the Long Term Care portion of the premium, it makes this product even more affordable.

This specific product is like having your cake and eating it too! If you are interested in seeing a Long Term Care product that would fit your family’s needs, give us a call. We will be glad to assist you in discovering which plan fits your needs and budget best.

CAPITOL NEWS CONT.

options by creating the assumption that any new drug patent on an existing product could be deemed “anti-competitive.” This could curtail critical innovations that patients rely on and leave them with limited therapeutic options. The National Grange joined other patient advocacy groups to urge the Senators to rethink their approach and encourage development of new medications and medication technology that provides the treatment of serious, complex, difficult-to-treat and/ or life-threatening illnesses.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Let’s Make a Deal

Democratic congressional leaders say they have agreed with President Trump to seek a deal on a \$2 trillion infrastructure bill. The President and members of Congress from both parties have long agreed on the need to rebuild the nation’s infrastructure, but how to pay for it and what kinds of projects to be included have stymied progress. However, few in Washington believe a landmark piece of legislation will move through Congress this year with the 2020 presidential election approaching.

Spending Snapshot

With a new infrastructure spending bill on the mind of many on Capitol Hill, what have been the spending patterns on America’s highways and waterways? According to the Congressional Budget Office, public spending (federal, state, local) on transportation and water infrastructure accounted for \$441 billion in 2017. Highways were the largest infrastructure expenditure at \$177 billion or 40% of the total public spending on transportation and water. The highway system is funded through the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Highway Trust Fund. HTF has traditionally funded all highway projects and 80% of public transportation programs with fuel, truck and tire taxes. Ports and harbors are maintained by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund through a 29 cent-per-gallon tax on barge fuel. These user tax revenues fund about half of the amount needed for the programs; the remainder must be appropriated by Congress.

Taxes

The House Ways and Means Committee passed a broad tax bill in late June that includes an extension of the biodiesel tax credit and incentives for biofuel infrastructure and wind power. The tax bill also included a roll-back of estate tax exemptions beginning in 2023. The National Grange and a large group of agriculture, rural, landowner, small business and family-owned enterprises opposed the roll-back. This proposed change pulls the rug out from family-owned businesses and farms that have recently adjusted their succession plans to reflect the new tax code and causes more uncertainty for businesses hoping to pass to the next generation. The bill in its current form more than doubles the number of tax payers subject to the death tax starting in 2023. Our groups will work to keep the roll-back



provision out of the Senate version of the tax bill.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Petition for New Connectivity

The National Grange along with 24 other rural education, municipal, telemedicine and agriculture groups petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to open a new rulemaking procedure to clear outstanding regulatory hurdles related to TV White Space technology. TWS technology offers a solution to the digital divide that persists because of the prohibitive cost of deploying traditional technologies to small customer bases in hard-to-reach areas.

A Boost for USDA Rural Broadband

The House has approved an increase in FY20 funding for USDA's ReConnect rural broadband loan and grant program to \$605 million. The Senate has yet to start work on its FY20 appropriations bills but is expected to be favorable to this increase.

Upward Momentum for Broadband

U.S. broadband capital investment increased by \$3 billion to \$75 billion in 2018 according to USTelecom. Broadband capital investment had declined on a negative regulatory impact with the classification of broadband providers as utilities in 2015. That classification was reversed in 2017 and broadband investment began to rise again.

Trade

On June 29, President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan. They agreed to restart talks to end the U.S. - China trade war that has cost American agriculture billions in lost exports. The tariff and trade deadlock with China continues to weigh heavily on farmers and ranchers. The loss of farm product markets in China has been exacerbated by severe weather and prevented plantings across wide areas of farm country. Uncertainty is beginning to creep into rural America as the economic impact spreads through entire communities. On a brighter note, an agriculture trade pact with Japan appears

promising after Japanese elections in July. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement has moved to higher priority in talks between U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer and House of Representatives leadership. House Speaker Pelosi announced in late June her desire for a vote to approve USMCA, but is demanding that pharmaceutical patents, environmental standards and labor enforcement issues be addressed before passage. Mexico meantime passed the USMCA, making it the first country to ratify the North American trade pact. Canada has introduced an implementation bill in the country's Parliament, but Canada wants to approve the deal closer to the final vote by the U.S. Congress.

Transportation

The National Grange and members of the Agricultural Transportation Working Group recently expressed strong support for the Surface Transportation Board undertaking efforts to modernize the Board's oversight of freight rail rates and for the creation the STB's Rate Reform Task Force. The freight rail marketplace has changed significantly over the past 30 years while the Board's process for adjudicating excessive rail rates has not kept pace.

To receive regular legislative updates by email from NC Grange, go to NCGrange.com and enter your email address at the sign-up box that will pop up when visiting the home page. To receive View From the Hill, visit the National Grange Website.

2019 Quilt Raffle

Tickets are \$5. Proceeds benefit the Grange Foundation. Winner will be drawn at the Evening of Excellence, November 8, 2019 in Bloomington, MN. You do not need to be present to win. Check with NC Grange President, Jimmy Gentry for tickets.

CHOCOLATE PEANUT SANDWICH COOKIES

PAM MCCARRICK | FERGUSON
FIRST PLACE NUT COOKIE

COOKIES:

2 CUPS FLOUR
¾ CUP COCOA POWDER
(SPECIAL DARK)
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
½ TEASPOON SALT
1-1/4 (2-1/2 STICKS) CUPS
BUTTER SOFTENED
2 CUPS SUGAR
2 EGGS
2 TEASPOONS VANILLA EXTRACT
½ CUP CHOPPED PEANUTS
½ CUP MINI CHOCOLATE CHIPS

HEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES.
STIR TOGETHER FLOUR, SODA
AND SALT, SET ASIDE.
BEAT BUTTER AND SUGAR IN
LARGE MIXING BOWL WITH
MIXER UNTIL FLUFFY. ADD
EGGS AND VANILLA AND BEAT
WELL. GRADUALLY ADD FLOUR
MIXTURE AND BEAT WELL.
DROP ROUNDED TEASPOONS
ONTO UNGREASED COOKIE
SHEET. BAKE 8-10 MINUTES.
DO NOT OVER BAKE. LET COOL
ON PAN FOR A FEW MINUTES.
COOL COMPLETELY.

FILLING:

1 CUP (2 STICKS) SOFTENED
BUTTER
1 CUP CRUNCHY PEANUT
BUTTER
3 1/3 CUPS CONFECTIONARY
SUGAR

BEAT BUTTER AND PEANUT
BUTTER TOGETHER UNTIL
FLUFFY. SLOWLY MIX IN SUGAR,
THEN BEATWELL.
SPREAD FILLING ON ONE OF THE
COOKIES AND TOP WITH
ANOTHER.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

bless and be blessed

by: Jerry Snyder, NC Grange Chaplain

In March, Jo Ann and I were privileged to spend twelve days in Israel. We were in a small group of twelve people, including our eldest son Jeff and his wife Liz. The other eight were business associates of our son and their wives.

This was our first trip to Israel and we found it to be a beautiful country. We arrived in Tel Aviv and were promptly welcomed by two missiles fired from Gaza, which landed harmlessly in fields south of Tel Aviv. We were also welcomed by our guide and driver and proceeded to our first stop, a lovely hotel on the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea is starkly beautiful, with the sky blue water and barren hills around it. It is 1,400 below sea level and is fed by the Jordan River coming from the north, but there is no water outlet from the Dead Sea. Hence the buildup of salts and minerals. From the Dead Sea we traveled north to Ein Gedi where David encountered Saul. Then to Massada, a fortress built by King Herod the Great. Traveling north through the West Bank area we arrived at Tiberias, a city on the Sea of Galilee.

The northern part of Israel is beautiful and in March it's very green. We took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and visited the places where Jesus had his ministry, like where he fed the 5,000; where he turned water into wine in Canaan; where the Sermon on the Mount occurred; and other places.

We toured the Golan Heights and looked over into Syria, and we could understand why Israel will never give the Golan back to Syria. It is critical for their survival as a nation. Israel is a country the size of the State of Massachusetts and is surrounded by many people that don't like them. Our guide said that every family in Israel has been touched by the Holocaust and the mentality of Israel is "Never again."

Jerusalem was all we expected and more. It rises 2,200 feet above sea level, so when you read in the Bible about going up to Jerusalem, it's the only way to get there. Jerusalem exists as a settlement from prehistoric times. It has been

occupied by the Cannanites, Israelites, Babylonians, Perusians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Mammalukes and Turks. The old city has four quarters: Jewish, Moslem, Christian and Armenian quarters. It has eight gates and is home to the temple mount, and today is the location of two great mosques, the Dome of the Rock and the Aksa Mosques. The western side of the mount is the western or Wailing Wall, one of the holiest Jewish sites.

Why is Israel so pivotal? For example, are you aware that almost half of the resolutions of the United Nations have been made about Israel? The Jewish people are unique. Their entire history was foretold in prophesy. That fact is not true of any other nation. The whole history of the Jewish people, from Abraham onward, was foretold in prophecy in the Bible.

The question is, why should we as Christians be concerned about Israel? Think about this. Without the Jewish people, there are no patriarchs, no prophets, no apostles, no Bible and no Savior. How much salvation would you or I have without those five components? The answer, I think, is none. Let us keep Israel in our prayers.

Shalom,
Jerry



ORDER YOUR YARD SIGN OR LICENSE PLATE

Place orders at NCGrange.com and look for the button on the homepage. If you are attending convention, please indicate your order on your registration form.



Prom Joyce

by: Joyce Chadfelder,

Family Living Director

July is almost over and State Convention is just around the corner! An earlier edition of the Grange News gave new, fresh updates to the baking contests for 2019. Be sure to pay special attention to those updates and to the new categories in place for this year. We are excited to try something new and hope it increases participation. Those new categories include:

Cake: Pound, Layer, cake that includes a mix and/or pudding

Pie: Fruit pie, Nut pie, Custard pie

Cobbler: Fruit cobbler

Bread: Banana Nut, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato

Cookie: Fruit, Nut/Nut Butter, Oatmeal, Chocolate Chip

Based on the fact that many bakers are now using store-bought pie crusts, we felt that this needed to be an alternative to making your own crusts. I hope this will be an exciting time for you to prepare new baked goods for convention. I also welcome your feedback, either at convention or following, regarding the changes to the baking contest.

I also want to remind you not to forget your Arts and Craft entries. Many of you are very talented, and I hope you let us see your talent firsthand. Entries for all contests can be found at NCGrange.com under "events." I look forward to seeing everyone this September in Durham, and I hope you have a great rest of the summer.

Prom Sharon

by: Sharon Carter Underwood

Community Service Director

There are only a few more months to collect items for the Durham Rescue Mission for our state service project. Please collect socks and underwear (large sizes) to bring to the convention in September and help those in need. Thank you for your caring hearts and generous donations!

NC GRANGERS TRAVEL TO TENNESSEE

by: Jennie Gentry

A small group of NC Grange youth and adults traveled to Alcoa, Tennessee for the Southeastern Regional Grange Conference. Held July 19-21, Grange members of all ages from North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Florida joined together to fellowship and participate in contests and activities. Among those in attendance were Samantha Wilkins, National Junior Director, and Mandy Bostwick, National Youth Director, both of whom led team-building activities and in-depth program discussions. We were also very proud of NC's own Rylee Furr and Zac Mazag who led activities as the National Grange Youth Ambassadors. They also led a very important workshop helping attendees discuss scenarios that may occur in our local Granges and how to handle them. They're leadership and professionalism made everyone proud. NC's State Ambassadors Nick Jones and Amber Long were also present to represent our state youth program.

The weekend also included a new activity, "Grange Baseball," which has replaced the Grange Jeopardy Contest. In Grange Baseball, teams compete to answer Grange trivia questions in hopes to score the most runs. Though one team wins, the individuals with the highest batting averages also win to compete at the National level. Those winners were James Lesley, Ashley Drop and Nick Jones. It was such a fun activity that had everyone involved and brought about many laughs.

Participants from North Carolina also had great success with other contests this year. Baylor Howerton (Bushy Fork Grange) placed first and Best In Show in the Sign-a-Song Contest, signing "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" by Will Smith. Liz Lesley (Southern Wake Grange) placed first and received Best in Show in the Public Speaking Contest. Both ladies will be able to compete in the National competitions in November. We were also proud of Josh Bethany from Florida who placed second in both of these contests. His speech gave tribute to NC Grange for involving him in our youth program. After a full day, attendees enjoyed hilarious games led by National Grange Secretary Judy Sherrod of Tennessee. The group had vespers and goodbye hugs with other attendees before retiring to their rooms and departing on Sunday morning. It was a very fun, successful weekend.



TO OUR NEWEST
GRANGE MEMBERS!

John Freas - Little Mountain
Sally Respress - Beaufort County
Deborah Bishop - Ferguson
Lloyd and Deborah Howell - Ferguson
Jerry and Diane Boyd - Grantham
Michelle Jones - Grantham
Riley Walton - Grantham
Maurice Melton - Old Richmond
Lori, Mallory, and Makenna Seymore
- St. John's
Matthew and Misty Beaver and Ethan and
Carson Crowe - Corriher
John and Sherry Ratcliff - Corriher
Robert Elliott - Cape Fear
Joe and Janice Campbell - Schley
Bobby and Angelos Campbell - Schley
Chris Campbell - Schley
George and Deborah Christie - Schley
Susan Heckman - Schley
Michael Hood - Schley
Stephanie Latta - Schley
Dudley Latta - Schley
David and Vickie McKee - Schley
Doug, Judy and Garrett Banks - Schley
Barbara Latta - Schley
Danielle Laycock - Schley
Brenda McCall - Schley
Dick Harman - Schley
Anette Shambley - Schley
Emily Sloss - Schley
Kessel Summers - Schley





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