

The official publication of the NC Grange

September / October 2019

# GRANGE NEWS

2019  
State Convention



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15-17	<b>Sunbelt Expo   Moultrie, GA</b>
November 5-9	<b>National Convention   Minneapolis, MN</b>
February TBD	<b>Winter Youth Conference   Asheboro, NC</b>
March 13-15	<b>Family Conference   Nags Head, NC</b>

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: LOCAL ISSUES

What are the current issues that your county government bodies are wrestling with? Is your school board considering curriculum changes, new discipline policies, dress codes, tearing down a school, or building a new school? Are your county commissioners considering a new zoning plan, working with farmland preservation, or considering incentive payments to attract new industry? How about your local town council? Are they considering a tax increase, re-vamping parking, increasing fees for parking tickets, or attempting to control growth in a manageable way?

In any given county or community there are constant issues being considered by governing bodies. Some could have considerable impacts on the citizens, while others may be minimal. Local government decisions have the potential to impact us just as much if not more than state and federal issues. Now, the next question: Is your Grange involved in any of those issues that may be on the table? One of the great things about our organization is we believe that a voice in

government affairs at all levels is important. Positive things can happen through local Grange involvement. First, you are contributing to the decision-making process while representing your members. Second, your involvement could attract new members because they like what you stand for. Third, your Grange could become better known.

It is not very complicated. You need a legislative director to keep an eye out for issues in which your Grange might need to become involved. Once those issues are identified, you provide a voice on behalf of your organization. This voice may be provided through letters, emails, phone calls, individual meetings, or testimony at public hearings. If you need advice or assistance, either I or our State Legislative Director Laurie Barnhart are ready to help. You will find your involvement rewarding, especially when a decision goes your way!



## FERGUSON GRANGE ACTIVITIES

*BINGO* by: Sharon Underwood

The Ferguson Grange hosted their annual “Bingo, Food and Fun Extravaganza” on September 28 at our community center. The \$900.00 raised will go to our community service projects. The effort was coordinated by member Clarkie Brown.

## LITTLE MOUNTAIN GRANGE STARTS NEW YOUTH PROGRAM

by: Jennie Gentry

Early this year, I received a call from one of our Youth Team members, Cole Settle. Recognizing the amount of youth that are currently part of Little Mountain Grange in Wilkes County, and seeing the potential for many more youth in their area to join, he wanted to do something to start an active youth program for his Grange. Do you know how high my heart soared when he said that? I was ecstatic! So, what did Cole do? He reached out, got the help he needed and made it happen.

At a regular meeting of their Grange, Cole reached out to Mitchell Hayes, a Grange member who has worked with youth in their area through Boy Scouts. They discussed the possibilities and went to work. Between Cole, team member Hannah Gentry and their brothers, they invited friends from school, the community, and their FFA Chapter, and on September 29, Little Mountain Grange had their first official fun outing to kick off a new youth program. Ten youth and three adults (including myself) met at their Grange Hall for pizza. We then traveled to Bo’s Family Entertainment for an afternoon of laser tag, arcade games, and bowling.

The group met back at the Grange Hall after the outing and tossed around ideas for several amazing activities to do together and ideas for community service. I was especially blown away by Mitchell’s ideas, who has also volunteered his time to lead their new youth program. It was very exciting to see this group so enthusiastic about starting a program, and it was especially exciting to see new youth thrilled about joining the Grange. And the most impressive part? It started because the youth made it happen.

Over the years, I have heard several Granges state that they want to start a youth program locally but aren’t sure how. If you have a few positive, willing adults and a few enthusiastic youth, I promise it can happen. I wanted to share this story to inspire Granges to start youth programs, and I want you to know that I am here to help. Just contact me at [jenniegentry@ncgrange.com](mailto:jenniegentry@ncgrange.com). Remember, investing in youth is something the Grange believes in, and we need youth because they will be the ones leading our Granges in the future.



*TO OUR NEWEST  
GRANGE MEMBERS!*

Faith Harris - Guilford Grange  
 Patrice Brown - Guilford Grange  
 Charles Hafer - Guilford Grange  
 Carol Caldwell - Guilford Grange  
 Richard Linton - Associate  
 Sumit Bhattarai - Associate

## 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.



# FOUR FLAVOR POUND CAKE

LEIGH PAYNE | TROUTMANT GRANGE  
BEST OF SHOW BAKING 2019

2 STICKS BUTTER, SOFTENED  
1 CUP MILK  
1/2 CUP CRISCO  
1 TSP VANILLA, LEMON, ALMOND  
3 CUPS SUGAR BUTTER  
6 LARGE EGGS  
1/4 TSP SALT  
1/2 TSP BAKING POWDER  
3 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR

NOTE: USE ANY FLAVORINGS YOU  
DESIRE

PREHEAT OVEN TO 325 DEGREES.  
CREAM 2 STICKS OF BUTTER AND  
1/2 CUP CRISCO. ADD 3 CUPS  
SUGAR AND CONTINUE TO CREAM.

IN A SEPARATE BOWL, WHISK 6 EGGS  
UNTIL LEMONY COLOR. ADD TO  
BUTTER MIXTURE AND CONTINUE  
TO CREAM.

IN ANOTHER BOWL, STIR TOGETHER  
FLOUR, SALT AND BAKING POWDER.

ADD TO MIXTURE ALL AT ONE TIME  
AND CONTINUE TO MIX. ALTERNATE  
1 CUP OF MILK WITH ONE TSP EACH  
OF FLAVORINGS.

AFTER MIXING WELL, POUR INTO  
GREASED AND FLOURED TUBE PAN  
AND BAKE 1 1/2 HOURS. CHECK  
WITH CAKE TESTER.

## ICING

1 8 OZ CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED  
1/2 STICK BUTTER, SOFTENED  
1 BOX CONFECTIONERS SUGAR

CREAM BUTTER AND CREAM  
CHEESE. ADD SUGAR AND MIX WELL.  
SPREAD OVER COOLED CAKE



## From Katie

By: Katie Greene  
Membership Director

It was great seeing our members at September's State Convention, and we missed those who were not able to attend. While at the convention, I was speaking with some Grangers about membership at their local Grange. I was eager and interested to learn how they consistently have new members. They proceeded to tell me about the different programs that their Grange holds throughout the year and informed me of new ideas and plans they are going to try in the upcoming year. As the convention came to an end, I started thinking about our dwindling Granges versus our growing Granges. I thought, "Wouldn't it be great if every single Grange received a membership certificate at convention for having a net gain of at least one new member?" I would love to see ALL our Granges grow, and I truly believe that this can happen. So, I am asking all Granges to help me, and allow me, to help you grow your Grange! Please send me programs and ideas that your Grange has used that have been successful or have potential to be even more successful. I am going to compile information on all of these ideas and programs and send them to all Granges. I hope that with this information we, together, can make the NC Grange grow as a whole. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me! You can submit all your ideas and programs to me by email at [kegreene@ncgrange.com](mailto:kegreene@ncgrange.com), or by mail to the Grange Office at 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy, Statesville, NC 28625. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to hear from all of you soon!

## From Sharon

By: Sharon Carter Underwood  
Community Service Director

The NC Grange has selected the 2020 Community Service Project and it is...(drum roll)...Baby Bundles of Charlotte! Their website states their mission, which is "to provide baby essentials to families in financial need in the Charlotte area by helping them get a positive start with their new baby." I am so excited about this project and I hope you will be too!

We are asking all Granges to donate baby clothes, bibs, burp cloths, blankets, books and educational toys to make baby bundles for each infant in need. These gifts will be presented to their Executive Director at our 2020 State Convention in September. For more information, visit their website at [babybundlesnc.org](http://babybundlesnc.org).

I would also challenge each Grange to continue making great plans and projects to serve their communities. What you do makes a positive difference to the many lives you touch. Take photos, write it up and email them to Jessica Horton for our Grange News magazine and for social media. This will inspire us all to keep moving forward with our good deeds through the Grange.

I also want to thank you for the generous donations your Granges made to the Durham Rescue Mission as you supported the 2019 Community Service Project. Your donations are going a long way to make a huge difference.



# 2019 STATE GRANGE CONVENTION

A Weekend of Fellowship by: Jennie Gentry

Each September, as the summer starts to wind down and the crisp fall air starts to move in, Grange members gather from all over the state for our annual State Grange Convention. Although business is conducted, awards are presented, and contests entries are rewarded, my favorite part of this event is seeing our many Grange friends. Family fellowship and service to others is something that stands out about the Grange, and our convention is a great reminder of that.

Held at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham September 12-15, our State Grange staff and leadership traveled in on Thursday to meet and setup for the weekend's activities. With officers and delegates in place, the session officially opened on Friday morning, led by our State Grange President, Jimmy Gentry. After giving updates on many Grange programs and activities, Jimmy delivered the traditional Presidential Address. Using the convention theme, Touching Lives, he inspired attendees that in everything we do, we can impact people in amazing ways. He reminded us that if small things, like our pets, have such huge impacts on our lives, imagine the even bigger impact we can have on each other's lives. After the address, committees met to review the resolutions that were submitted by Granges this year for our 2020 legislative policy.

Committees took a break midday to attend the Friends of Agriculture Luncheon, which brought together many of our state's agricultural organizations and commodity groups. Zane Hedgecock with the NC Department of Agriculture said a few words about the state of agriculture and how vital it is that we continue working together to support this top industry in NC. Our keynote speaker for the luncheon was Ray Starling, General Counsel for the NC Chamber. Ray has had a long history of working as General Counsel for the NCDA and for Senator Thom Tillis. He also spoke about his time working as Agricultural Advisor to President Trump, and most recently as Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue's Chief of Staff.. With a fascinating story to tell and positive comments for his friends in agriculture, we are excited that Ray is now back in North Carolina, and we are grateful for his friendship to the Grange.

After lunch, a reception was held to honor the recipients of this year's Grange and Community Awards. This year, Cape Fear Grange was named Grange of the Year while Grantham Grange received the Community Service Award. Ned Hudson

of St. John's Grange was named Granger of the Year, a special and well-deserving award for anyone who knows Ned.

As the day's meetings winded down with a long break for dinner, Grangers gathered Friday evening for the annual Live Auction. After bidding and raising money for our Grange Disaster Relief Fund, attendees enjoyed all the delicious treats in the baking contest at our Annual Tasting Party. This is one of our favorite traditions of the convention and we look forward to tasting those winning entries every year. The party also allows time for members to see the many talented entries in the photography, art and crafts contests and the selected winners.

Saturday morning of the convention started with a tasty breakfast with Dean Rich Linton, NC State University's College of Ag and Life Sciences, as our guest speaker. Dean Linton gave many informative updates about the CALS college, research, the current trends in agriculture and spoke of the importance of the future of agriculture in our state. After breakfast, the State Youth Officers and Drill Team opened the session and the day's business began with a discussion on legislative resolutions and the election of State Officers. (You can find a full list of officers in the front of this issues of Grange News.)

Our Saturday luncheon highlighted our state service project for the year. Granges donated many items for the Durham Rescue Mission, a long-term homeless shelter that provides food, clothing housing, job training and placement, counseling and education to men, women and children in the Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh area. Lenny Sutherland with the Mission spoke at the event. He not only gave valuable information about the non-profit shelter, but also told the impactful story about his own personal journey and how he became involved at the Mission. This wonderful organization shared their gratitude for the items donated at the convention.

The convention's busy afternoon started with our State Talent Show. Our winners were youth James Lesley and Cole Settle who entertained the crowd by singing while playing guitar and mandolin. They also played a few bluegrass melodies. We are excited that this talented duo will be representing our State at Nationals this year. The afternoon also included the 6th Degree Conferral, for which a large group of new members took part. The day ended with the annual Youth and Junior Banquet.





## Youth and Junior Activities

When I say that my favorite part of the convention is seeing our Grange friends, that also includes seeing our amazing youth and juniors. We have an incredible group of young people who are completely devoted to being part of the Grange and its events, and it's so evident when you see these youth gathered together at convention.

As our young Grangers trickled in Friday evening, they gathered for a service project making thank you packets of mints for our Saturday night banquet. They also had snacks and games, then enjoyed the sweet treats of the Tasting Party. After practice Friday evening, the Youth opened the Grange session on Saturday morning under the leadership of State Youth President, Amber Long. Amber was presented with the "Excellence In Leadership" Award by Jimmy Gentry before a short recess. Youth then gathered for games and the luncheon while the Juniors gathered for their own games and a pizza party.

After cheering on their fellow youth in the Talent Show, which was emceed by Youth Ambassadors Nick Jones and Amber Long, the youth also took part in the 6th Degree Conferral. A large number of youth had the Degree for the first time, while a group of ten youth performed the Closing Drill for the Degree. Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship with members of all ages while having a large variety of delicious fruit, a 6th Degree tradition.

Saturday evening brought the annual Youth and Junior Banquet led by the State Youth Leadership Team. Both the Youth and Junior Team members were recognized for their hard work this year. Special camp awards were also presented. The highest award presented to Juniors, the Hunt Best Camper Award, was given to Peyton Trexler (St. Johns Grange) and Kayla Laws (Bushy Fork Grange). The top honor for youth, the Presidents Award for Best All Around was presented to Baylor Howerton (Bushy Fork Grange) and Cole Settle (Little Mountain Grange). Ashley Drop gave a few words about the strong, positive influence the Grange has on our youth, and Amber Long adjourned the banquet. Youth and Juniors then gathered for a variety of games and fun activities. The weekend offered youth a chance to enjoy their time together and to reunite after seeing each other at July's summer camp.

### Memorial Service and Convention Closes

As convention attendees gathered Sunday morning, the youth led a heartfelt memorial service to honor our fellow Grange members who have passed away this year. Youth and Juniors laid a white rose on an altar for every single person as their name was read aloud. The memorial service ended with prayer by James Lesley and was followed by an incredibly powerful message by State Chaplain Jerry Snyder for our worship service.

Grange members from across the state hugged, shook hands, and gave farewells in hopes of the next time they would see each other. We left the convention with full hearts and full bellies, full of the excitement that comes from Grange fellowship. We also left feeling renewed having seen our Grange friends, and feeling inspired to go out and touch the lives of those who need us.





# CAPITOL NEWS

by: *Laurie Barnhart*

The North Carolina General Assembly kept the unpredictable nature of this 2019 Long Session by holding “no vote” sessions for two weeks beginning September 16 to reconvene on September 30 for a voting session. There has been quite a bit of activity to wrap up ongoing legislation

Many of you probably are aware that on September 11, the NC House overrode Governor Cooper’s veto of this year’s budget bill which brought national attention. This vote brought tremendous resistance as many members claimed they were told there would be no votes during this particular session. Just over half of the members were present that morning. Rep. Jason Saine (R-Lincoln) made the motion to reconsider the budget. After his motion, absolute chaos followed predominately led by Rep. Deb Butler (D-New Hanover), who objected to the motion stating they were told no votes would be held that morning. House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) denied that he ever made that announcement. The bill was sent to the Senate and it remains to be seen if they will have the votes to override the Governor’s veto thus allowing the budget to become law.

After the veto passed, Speaker Moore sent HB 655: NC Health Care for Working Families to the House Health committee for discussion. This bill is the Republican compromise to Medicaid Expansion which has been a top Democrat priority this session. HB 655 would establish the NC Health Care for Working Families program. The goal of the program would be to provide coverage to those who currently do not qualify for Medicaid and cannot afford private health insurance. To be eligible for the program, a participant would have to be between the ages of 19 and 64, meet federal citizenship requirements, and must have an income less than 133% of the federal poverty level. Participants will pay a premium of 2% of their annual income and will have 120 days to make their payment before they will no longer be eligible to participate in the program. Additionally, the program requires employment activities from participants, unless otherwise exempt, such as in the case of at-home primary caregivers. All of the program’s health care benefits will be managed by Prepaid Health Plans. The bill also establishes and funds the Rural Access to Healthcare Grant Fund through the Department of Health and Human Services to help increase access to care in rural communities throughout the state. The bill will now be heard in the House Rules Committee. (McGuireWoods Consulting)

During the week of September 17 the General Assembly wrapped up the redistricting process by passing

new legislative district maps which had a court-ordered deadline of September 18. Below is a synopsis from McGuireWoods Consulting of the process that occurred. As you can tell, it is an extremely sensitive and complicated process.

- The redistricting committees met following a court ruling during September in *Common Cause v. Lewis*. The three-judge panel in the case unanimously ruled that the state legislative districts that were drawn in 2017 used levels of political partisanship that unconstitutionally influenced the outcome of the elections by which legislative seats are currently held. Rather than appealing the court’s decision, members from both chambers and both parties jumped in to redraw new districts. The remedial district maps approved will only be used for the upcoming 2020 election. The state’s legislative districts will need to be redrawn once again following the collection of 2020 census data. A number of members in both the House and the Senate made a point to note during floor debates how pleased they were with the overall transparency and cooperativeness of the process, including staunch redistricting reform advocates such as Sen. Natasha Marcus (D-Mecklenburg) and Sen. Jeff Jackson (D-Mecklenburg). While a number of members, mainly Democrats, voted against the new maps, they expressed that their reasoning to do so was based on the idea, rather than the maps themselves, arguing legislators should not be responsible for drawing the maps of their own legislative districts.
- The House passed their remedial legislative district maps through HB 1020: 2019 House Remedial Map before voting on the Senate’s version. While a majority of the newly drawn House districts were agreed upon by the entire body, there were still a few districts sparking debate on the House floor. Despite efforts to amend a few of the districts, the House maps remained intact as they made their way through the redistricting committee all the way to the Senate floor.
- The Senate trailed a day behind, passing their maps Monday evening through SB 692: 2019 Senate Consensus Nonpartisan Map and voting on the House’s Tuesday afternoon, just in time to meet the court’s Wednesday deadline. The judges in the case will now review the remedial map plans to decide if they are in compliance with the order or if the judges should take the redraw out of the General Assembly’s hands and draw the new maps themselves.





### News from the Hill

On the National front there is always news. In the agriculture world, most noted was the US Secretary of Agriculture-Sonny Purdue's statement in support of the Department of Labor's (DOL) actions to change the onerous H2A visa application process. Secretary Purdue stated, "Both of these actions by DOL are critical changes the Administration is making to improve the H-2A application process. President Trump is committed to ensuring our farmers and producers have access to a stable, legal agricultural workforce. By streamlining these processes, DOL is bringing the H-2A process into the 21st Century allowing farmers to be able to better and cost-effectively advertise for workers they need and fill out the required forms faster and more efficiently, because no one should have to hire a lawyer to hire a farm worker. I commend President Trump for his continued support of America's farmers, ranchers and producers." This statement was issued in response to the DOL publishing a common-sense rule that will no longer require employers to advertise a job opening in newspapers. Instead, they will advertise on the DOL and State Workforce Agency websites. This will be less expensive and will reach more people seeking employment. In addition, the DOL's Office of Foreign Labor Certification has released updates to the relevant H-2A forms as well as the online filing procedure which is incredibly daunting and cumbersome. This is hopefully a beginning of a revamping of our H2A-visa procedures.

Although this is a step in the right direction, certainly the H2A visa application process is antiquated and extremely time consuming; one of the top concerns not addressed with these changes is the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR). The AEWR is the minimum wage rate the DOL has determined must be offered and paid by employers to H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment so that the wages and working conditions of similarly employed workers in the US will not be adversely affected. The AEWR has steadily increased. The following statement from the NC Sweet Potato Commission speaks to precisely the problem and what must be addressed if our farmers are to stay in business.

*"Our farmers tell us the single biggest problem with H-2A is the Adverse Effect Super Minimum Wage Rate that continues to escalate year after year to current levels that leave no profit for the grower to live on. International competition and a cost prohibitive H-2A program is forcing farmers to abandon labor intensive crops – to the detriment of our rural communities and North Carolina's overall economy. Our farmers MUST have a fair, predictable and sustainable wage rate in the H-2A program that pays workers a fair wage AND allows farmers to earn a living and support their families. The House legislation reportedly will preserve the current wage structure that is forcing our growers out of business. This is unacceptable."*

## DID YOU KNOW

By Al & Vinni Kirmss, Capitol Grange

We had a great time at State Convention and it's hard to believe that soon it will be time to travel to the National Convention. These are great events to see the Grange legislative process in action.

The Grange was started as a grassroots organization and the local Grange is where the legislative work of the Grange begins. When a local Grange sees an issue that they feel the Grange should help with, they can start the process of dealing with the issue by getting involved locally. These might be traffic signs, local flooding problems, local educational issues, etc. Local Granges can even get involved when larger issues arise on state levels. They do this by writing resolutions that address an issue, why it is an issue, and how to change the issue. Resolutions are sent to the State Grange to be addressed at State Convention where they are first given to a committee such as education, agriculture, taxation, Grange issues, etc. for consideration. All resolutions are discussed in the proper committee and may even be combined with similar resolutions or modified to be more appropriate. Resolutions that pass the committees are then addressed by the delegates who represent the local Granges. The delegates vote on each resolution to decide if it should be made part of State Grange policy and if it should be moved on to the National Grange for consideration by delegates at the National Convention.

Any member in any local Grange can start a resolution. You just think of an issue that the Grange can help with. The process is truly a grassroots one and allows each Grange member to have a voice and a vote.

### **2019 1st PLACE CONTEST WINNERS**

Grange of the Year: Cape Fear  
Program Director of the Year: Ferguson  
Community Service of the Year: Grantham  
Family Living of the Year: Edneyville  
Family of the Year: Swing/Rapp, Arcadia  
Grange Month: Grantham  
Granger of the Year: Ned Hudson, St. John's  
Church of the Year: Moore's Grove, Edneyville  
Educator of the Year: Lisa Packer, Cape Fear  
Military Person of the Year: Stephen Bradshaw, Grantham  
Law Enforcement of the Year: Ryker Tart, Westbrook  
Firefighter of the Year: Danny Sherrill, Edneyville  
Fire Department of the Year: Spring Lake, Cape Fear  
Secretary of the Year: Gay Shaver, Troutman  
Farm of the Year: Patterson Farms  
Legislative Affairs: Grantham



# GOTCHA COVERED

## WHAT ELSE IS CHANGING ALONG WITH THE LEAVES?

*by: Mark Davis*

Fall is quickly approaching, and we look forward to leaves changing their colors. This is always an exciting time of year as the landscape changes from the summer shades of green to the various shades of red, yellow and orange scattered across our woodlands.

Fall also brings news of changes in the health plans that will be available for the coming year. This year, our BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina program will have some exciting opportunities scattered across our state. Here are some examples of those opportunities, starting with the Over 65 changes.

For 2020, Medicare Advantage products will be available in 87 of our 100 North Carolina counties. Each of these counties has an offering with a “zero” premium. Along with statewide premium reductions, many of the offerings have increased benefits. For example, the Blue Medicare Essential Plus (HMO) now includes a preventative dental reimbursement along with a vision benefit. Many counties will have the choices of plans such as Medical Only (no Rx benefits), HMOs with in-network providers, or PPOs where members can receive services from both in and out of network providers. In the Forsyth, Guilford, and Mecklenburg market, there is a new HMO available. The Blue Medicare Choice (HMO) is a new concept where seniors can go to an advanced primary care (APC) provider that specializes in Senior Care. These APC providers have fewer patients on their caseload so the doctor actually has the time to work with that individual patient to achieve the desired outcome basis care hence improving the patient’s health and well-being. Although this program is limited to these three counties for 2020, the expectation is for this program to expand into other areas in the future.

For the Under 65 individuals, there are some plan reductions and new plans available in limited areas. The changes for 2020 in the Triad area are similar to those in the Triangle area from 2019. To achieve lower cost options in individual health care, there is a trend to collaborate with major health providers to have a more limited network. It is projected this concept will produce significant premium savings. With premium reductions

for 2020, those who are insured are eligible for premium subsidy and will definitely need to update their information with the Marketplace to obtain their new subsidy amount. The insured are encouraged to update this information as early as possible to make sure they receive the correct subsidy beginning with their January coverage.

One last development that is in process revolves around “Association Health Care Plans (AHP).” In 2018, the US Department of Labor issued a ruling that associations could individually, or joined together, form an association health plan. Part of that ruling also included an expanded definition of an employee where an individual could be considered both the owner of a business as well as an employee of that business. Members of an association, such as the North Carolina Grange, could also be included within an Association Health Plan. To facilitate this ruling in North Carolina, two separate bills went through our NC Legislature. These bills combined into Senate Bill 86, where the final rewrite passed with broad bipartisan support and went to the Governor’s desk in early August. The Governor chose not to act on this legislation and it became law, with an effective date of 10/1/2019. However, there is a pending adjudication in the Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, that challenges the US Department of Labor’s Final Ruling dealing with the Association Health Plans. Your North Carolina Grange is exploring the options we have to develop a NC Grange Association Health Plan. Our preliminary plans with an Association Health Plan is geared toward those individuals and groups that are not eligible for health insurance premium subsidies, the individuals who lost their “grandfathered” plans, and those using short term or “share” programs. Stay tuned as we continue to monitor the appeal and move forward with a potential NC Grange Association Health Plan.

With all the positive changes to occur in 2020, please let one of our NC Grange Agents help you with your health insurance coverage to make sure that you have the best plan available for your individual or family needs and budgets. We look forward to serving you!



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*create in me a  
clean heart, O God*

by: Jerry Snyder, NC Grange Chaplain

*Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."*

If we take these words to heart, it will change our lives. Peace and grace to you.

The 51st Psalm has always been a favorite of mine. Let me share it with you from the New International Version Bible. Psalm 51, Verses 1-17 says:

*"Have mercy on me, O God, according to  
your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion, blot out  
my transgressions.  
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me  
from my sins.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is  
always before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned and  
done what is evil in your sight,  
So that you are proved right when you speak  
and justified when you judge.  
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the  
time my mother conceived me.  
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you  
teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*

*"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones  
you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all  
my iniquity.*

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew  
a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy  
Spirit from me.  
Restore me to the joy of your salvation and grant me a  
willing spirit, to sustain me.*

*"Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and  
sinners will turn back to you.*

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

Psalm 118:28  
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