

The official publication of the NC Grange

March / April 2018

# GRANGE NEWS

*Members Serve Asheville*



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## Events 2018

April	Grange Month
June 17-23	Caravan
July 8-14	Grange Camp
September 13-16	State Convention
November 13-17	National Convention

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One of the more difficult decisions to make each day is what to have for lunch! Recently, I went to a Little Caesars Pizza shop a short distance from our office to get a pizza to share with the office staff. I only had \$5.00 cash in my billfold, so I planned to use my credit card. A very nice young lady behind the counter took a pizza out of the warmer and I proceeded to pay with my credit card. The problem was, the card reader rejected my card and I did not have enough cash to pay for the pizza, which was going to be \$6.40. After the card reader did not work, I told her that I did not have enough cash to pay for the pizza. She asked, "How much do you have?" I answered by telling

her I had five dollars. She said that she would take the \$5.00 and went to her jacket that was nearby to get the additional \$1.40. I told her no, that I wasn't going to use her money for the pizza, and that I could go back to the office to get more cash. She earnestly tried to convince me to use her cash, but I just could not do that. I left the pizza shop thinking that I would get cash from the staff in the office, but realized that I had enough change in the car to make up the additional amount needed. I went back into the shop and bought the pizza! Success!

While this occurrence doesn't seem any more significant than the experiences we all have each day, it reminded me of something quite significant. There is good in most of the people that we come into contact with each day. There is no doubt that the young lady assisting me at Little Caesars Pizza has a good heart.

Even though most are good, others carry out horrendous acts. Another school shooting has occurred, and in the news we are constantly hearing about people shooting each other. There are those who think that gun control legislation will solve

the problem. Others say that we should identify those with mental problems and keep guns out of their hands. These arguments might have some validity, and some type of new legislation might help in some cases. Yet there is no legislation that can completely fix the problems that we are experiencing. These problems are too deeply seated and complicated. We have often heard through the media that the shootings are "evil" acts, and I agree that they are. If one is willing to use the term "evil" then it must be recognized that the opposite of evil is good. The battle between good and evil is constant, and there is no amount of legislation that can solve the problem of evil in our society. Perhaps it would be helpful to our society to recognize that the best guide that we have available to overcome evil is in the scriptures. By the way, the next morning before I left for the office, I asked Anita for some cash!

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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.*

# SUGAR DUSTED APPLE BUNT CAKE

LOUISE WILLIAMS | GRANTHAM GRANGE  
SECOND PLACE ADULT APPLE CAKE

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## PAN PREP:

2 TBSP. SUGAR  
1/2 TSP. GROUND CINNAMON

## CAKE BATTER:

3 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR  
2 1/2 TSP. BAKING POWDER  
2 CUPS SUGAR  
1 CUP VEGETABLE OIL  
4 EGGS BEATEN  
1/3 CUP ORANGE JUICE  
1 (21 OZ.) CAN LUCK LEAF PREMIUM APPLE PIE FILLING  
2 TSP. VANILLA EXTRACT

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. GREASE AND FLOUR A 10-INCH TUBE PAN OR BUNDT CAKE PAN. IN A SMALL BOWL, MIX TOGETHER 2 TBSP. SUGAR AND CINNAMON AND SPRINKLE BOTTOM AND SIDES OF PAN.

COMBINE THE FLOUR, SALT, BAKING POWDER AND 2 CUPS SUGAR IN A LARGE BOWL. STIR IN THE OIL, EGGS, ORANGE JUICE AND VANILLA; MIX WELL. ADD LUCKY LEAF PREMIUM APPLE PIE FILLING AND STIR. POUR BATTER EVENLY INTO THE PREPARED PAN. BAKE UNCOVERED FOR 1 HOUR. LET COOL FOR 15 MINUTES. INVERT ONTO SERVING PLATE AND COOL. DRIZZLE WITH CITRUS GLAZE IF DESIRED.

OPTIONAL GLAZE: IN A MEDIUM BOWL, BEAT 1 CUP POWDERED SUGAR AND 1 TBSP. ORANGE JUICE FOR 1 MINUTE OR UNTIL SMOOTH. ADD ADDITIONAL ORANGE JUICE BY THE TSP. IF NEEDED FOR DESIRED CONSISTENCY.

## SOFT CRANBERRY SUGAR COOKIES

JOYCE CLODFELTER  
TROUTMAN GRANGE  
THIRD PLACE BERRY COOKIE

10 OZ. CRAISINS OR CRANBERRIES  
3 1/2 CUPS FLOUR  
1 TSP BAKING SODA  
1 1/2 CUPS SUGAR  
1 CUP CRISCO  
2 EGGS  
1 TSP VANILLA

COMBINE: 10 OZ. CRAISINS OR CRANBERRIES AND 1 C. WATER. BRING TO BOIL, REDUCE TO SIMMER AND COOK UNTIL ALL LIQUID IS ABSORBED. REMOVE AND LET COOL.

BOWL 1: COMBINE 3 1/2 C. FLOUR AND 1 TSP BAKING SODA.

BOWL 2: COMBINE 1 1/2 C. SUGAR, 1 C. CRISCO, 2 EGGS AND 1 TSP. VANILLA.

ADD: CRANBERRIES AND FLOUR MIXTURE ALTERNATELY. MIX WELL. SHAPE DOUGH INTO BALLS, ROLL IN SUGAR UNTIL WELL COATED, (I USE THE SMALL PAMPERED CHEF SCOOP).

BAKE 10 TO 15 MIN. UNTIL EDGES SLIGHTLY BROWNED. 350 DEGREES.

RECIPE MAKES ABOUT 6 DOZ COOKIES.

## EASY PEANUT COOKIES

PATTY SWING  
ARCADIA GRANGE  
FIRST PLACE NUT COOKIE

1 12 OZ. PACKAGE BUTTERSCOTCH CHIPS  
1 CUP SALTED PEANUTS  
1 1/2 CUPS CHOW MEIN NOODLES WHICH HAVE BEEN  
BROKEN IN SMALL PIECES. (DO NOT CRUSH)

MELT BUTTERSCOTCH CHIPS IN TOP OF DOUBLE BOILER, REMOVE FROM HEAT AND STIR IN NOODLES AND NUTS QUICKLY. DROP BY SMALL SPOONFULS ONTO WAX PAPER.

COOL IN REFRIGERATOR. REMOVE FROM REFRIGERATOR ONCE COOL AND LEAVE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE FOR SEVERAL HOURS. STORE IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER.

## SWEET POTATO OATMEAL RAISEN COOKIES

SHARON RITCHIE  
ST JOHNS GRANGE  
HONORABLE MENTION

1 LARGE SWEET POTATO OF 1 CUP MASHED COOKED  
SWEET POTATO  
1/2 CUP (1 STICK) AND 6 TBS OF BUTTER  
1/2 CUP PACKED BROWN SUGAR  
1/2 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR  
2 TBSP HONEY  
2 EGGS  
1 TSP VANILLA  
1 1/2 CUPS FLOUR  
1 TSP BAKING SODA  
1 TSP GROUND CINNAMON  
1/2 TSP SEA SALT  
3 CUPS OLD FASHIONED OATS, UNCOOKED  
1 CUP RAISINS

USING A STAND MIXER, BEAT BUTTER, SUGARS, AND HONEY IN A LARGE BOWL UNTIL CREAMY.

ADD THE SWEET POTATO, VANILLA AND EGGS AND MIX UNTIL THOROUGHLY COMBINED.

IN A SEPARATE BOWL, COMBINE FLOUR, BAKING SODA, SALT AND CINNAMON. STIR AND ADD TO THE SUGAR MIXTURE. MIX UNTIL COMBINED THOROUGHLY. ADD OATS AND RAISINS AND STIR INTO MIXTURE. TURN OVEN ON TO 350 DEGREES.

WITH AN ICE CREAM SCOOP OR LARGE SPOON, DROP DOUGH ONTO AN UNGREASED OR PARCHMENT PAPER LINED BAKING SHEET. PLACE IN THE OVEN AND COOK FOR 10 TO 12 MINUTES OR UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN. ALLOW TO COOL ON A WIRE RACK.

MAKES AROUND 4 DOZEN SMALL COOKIES.





# GRANGERS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH NC MEDASSIST IN ASHEVILLE

BY: JENNIE GENTRY & JESSICA HORTON

Over 160 Grangers from as far east as Beaufort County and as far west as Cherokee County gathered in Asheville, North Carolina at the Hilton Biltmore Park for our annual Family Conference. This event is held each spring for all ages to attend, making it the perfect family-friendly weekend.

Grange members arrived on Friday evening for a welcome, introductions and presentations. Joining us from The Stewart Group in Raleigh, owner Dee Stewart and employee Kensley Leonard gave information about their public relations firm and their new partnership with the Grange. At their December meeting, the NC Grange Board of Directors elected to hire the firm on a temporary basis to assist with public relations efforts for our organization. At the conference, they outlined their plan and the work they have been doing which includes managing press releases, traditional media coverage, and social media coverage. They are continuing to work to make the Grange's presence known state-wide.

Vance Dalton, CEO of Carolina Farm Credit, also presented, giving attendees information on the programs their organization offers its members and NC farmers. Carolina Farm Credit generously co-sponsored the NC MedAssist Project, an over-the-counter drug giveaway, that we hosted during the weekend. NC Grange President Jimmy Gentry concluded the evening with remarks for the following day and everyone retired to their rooms for the evening. With a big day ahead, rest was much needed!





On Saturday morning, some conference attendees rose up before the sun to start their early shift of volunteering for NC MedAssist. Held at the Arthur R. Edington Education & Career Center in Asheville, and co-sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit, the Grange partnered with NC MedAssist again this year to work an event to distribute over-the-counter medication to people in the community. Our members worked different shifts throughout the day, from 8:00AM to 3:00PM, to setup up, organize stations, and give out medication. Volunteers rotated shifts serving those in need of vitamins, pain relievers, family planning, heartburn relief, cold and flu relief, etc. Those from the community were also able to stop by another table to select three personal items of their choice. Joyce Clodfelter, Grange Community Service Director, organized a drive to collect toothbrushes, toothpaste and tissues that were donated to this particular station. Grange members donated so many items that NC MedAssist was able to take the extras to their next event in Gaston County! The event concluded with our cleanup crew, and Grangers had an afternoon free to explore the Asheville area. Serving together is an important part of the Grange, and we have enjoyed partnering with NC MedAssist at this conference to give families the chance to serve together.

Grangers attending the conference were on their own for dinner, allowing them time to spend with family and friends. Everyone then gathered again at the Hilton for an evening of celebrating. The Saturday of Family Conference also happened to be St. Patrick's Day, so Grangers were encouraged to wear their best green duds to enjoy the evening festivities, which included a talent show, green desserts, and a family game of bingo!

The evening opened with our annual Talent Contest, emceed by State Youth Ambassadors Rylee Furr and Zac Mazag. Ryleigh Hartsell of St. John's Grange won first place in the Junior category for her colorful dance routine. Youth member Kacey Vann of Grantham Grange won first place for vocals; and Zipporah Hayes from Taylor's Bridge Grange, won first place for her dance routine for the youth category. Zipporah also took home Best In Show and is invited to perform this fall in Stowe, Vermont at the National Grange Convention's Evening of Excellence. As part of the talent entertainment, Baylor Howerton, a youth from Bushy Fork Grange, performed her winning Sign-a-Song act, beautifully putting sign language to music. Following the show, everyone enjoyed dessert, a spread of themed treats including mini cheesecakes, cupcakes, key lime pie and mint chocolate chip ice cream. After a quick break, staff members Jennie

Gentry and Jessica Horton hosted a huge bingo game, complete with over 50 prizes for members to win. It was the perfect evening to a hard day's work!

Sunday morning, Grangers gathered once again for breakfast and worship, led by Board Member, Robert Cayton. Closing remarks were given by staff and President, Jimmy Gentry. The staff received many compliments about the weekend, and such a wonderful time was had by everyone in attendance! We are already looking forward to State Convention when we reunite for another weekend of fellowship.







# Youth Say “YES” and Learn About Success

BY: JENNIE GENTRY, NC GRANGE YOUTH DIRECTOR

When you get 50 youth together for a weekend, you are sure to have an incredible time, and that is exactly what happened at this year’s Winter Youth Conference. Held February 9-11 at the beautiful Camp Caraway in Asheboro, youth gathered for the retreat to learn, fellowship, build leadership skills, and spend time with friends.

The theme for the weekend was “YES Part 2...Saying YES to Success,” in which youth engaged in workshops to learn seven powerful steps to becoming a success in life. As part of the program, several of our young adults helped emcee the morning’s program by leading hilarious “YES” games to help youth participate in volunteering.

Throughout the weekend, youth also competed in contests and received their 2017 National Grange Youth

achievement awards certificates. For the second year, Katie Leonard was honored for receiving the most achievement awards, and for the first time ever, three of our youth received National Grange pins for completing all categories for the agricultural achievement award. Our 2017 State Youth Officers were also honored.

State Contests were held throughout the day Saturday. Winning first place in the Youth Public Speaking Contest was Ashley Drop of Arcadia Grange. Making their second group appearance and winning first place in the Group Sign-a-Song Contest was the “Grange Bellas”. This group competed in 2016, winning the National Contest with their Pitch Perfect 1 performance. They will be competing again this year with their Pitch Perfect 2 routine. Made up of youth and young adults, the group consists of Kirsten Cash, Rylee Furr, Jennie Gentry, Nayhive Gonzalez, Lillie Griffin, Emily Hartsell, Ashley Holloman, Baylor Howerton, Katie Leonard and Amber Long. Baylor Howerton also won first place in the Individual Sign-a-Song Contest for the 3rd consecutive year.

For our Grange Jeopardy Contest, first place went to Katie Leonard; second place to Tyler Leonard, and third place to Lucas Carter. All winners of these four contests will compete at the Regional Youth Conference in July for a chance to compete at the National Grange Convention this year.

Fifteen youth also competed in our annual impromptu speech contest, which always brings great entertainment. Winning first place was Katie Leonard (Arcadia Grange). Second place went to Brandon Medlin (Bushy Fork Grange); third place went to Kirsten

Cash (Troutman Grange); and fourth place went to Liz Cartwright (Guilford Grange). All speakers did an incredible job, and we love how this contest builds confidence in our youth. We are especially thankful to State FFA Officers Sarah Swain and Madeline Wilhelm, and our State Program Director Caroline Tart, who attended the weekend conference and helped judge the speaking contests.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Rylee Furr of St. John’s Grange was elected the 2018 State Grange Youth President, and Zac Mazag of Troutman Grange was elected the State Youth Vice President. A full list of officers can be found in this edition of *Grange News*.

Throughout the weekend, Youth Team and Youth Ambassador applicants took part in interviews with the State Youth Committee. The committee interviewed

the applicants to select the leaders for the year, a tough decision with so many amazing candidates. All applicants did an impressive job interviewing, and we were so proud of the leadership skills and confidence that they possess. In a special ceremony on Saturday evening, the new Youth Leadership Team was announced.

The 2018 State Youth Ambassadors are Rylee Furr, St. John’s Grange, and Zac Mazag, Troutman Grange. The youth selected to serve on the 2018 State Youth Team are Lucas Carter, Southern Wake Grange; Lillie Griffin, Troutman Grange; Margie Griffin, Troutman Grange; Nick Jones, Southern Wake Grange; Tyler Leonard, Arcadia Grange; and Amber Long, Bushy Fork Grange. Each one of these young leaders accepted his or her position with either tears of joy or smiles of excitement, ready to serve the Grange through this wonderful opportunity. Along with the introduction of the new team, Saturday evening’s festivities included dancing, games, and special vespers led by last year’s Youth Ambassadors, Katie Leonard and Landon Woolard.

Youth departed Sunday morning after a worship service that was led by a group of our very own youth, and our special friendship circle, sharing hugs and expressing their eagerness to see each other again at the next event. Our youth all had a wonderful weekend together, and much appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible. Our organization is proud of what a unique program we have for such a wonderful group of young people.

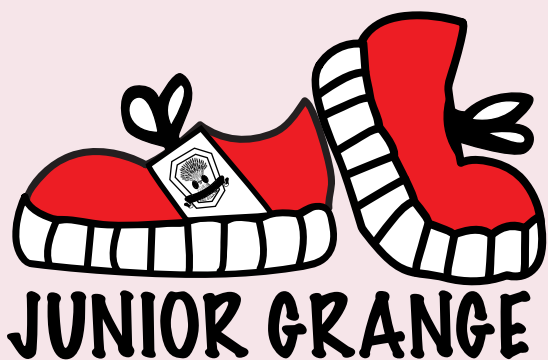






## 2018 NC State Grange Youth Officers

President:	Rylee Furr, St. John's Grange
Vice President:	Zac Mazag, Troutman Grange
Program Director:	Margie Griffin, Troutman Grange
Steward:	Tyler Leonard, Arcadia Grange
Assistant Steward:	Nick Jones, Southern Wake Grange
Lady Assistant Steward:	Lillie Griffin, Troutman Grange
Chaplain:	Hannah Gentry, Little Mountain Grange
Treasurer:	Amber Long, Bushy Fork Grange
Secretary:	Ashley Drop, Arcadia Grange
Gatekeeper:	Lucas Carter, Southern Wake Grange
Ceres:	Baylor Howerton, Bushy Fork Grange
Pomona:	Zipporah Hayes, Taylors Bridge Grange
Flora:	Kirsten Cash, Troutman Grange
Executive Committee:	Rob Cartwright, Guilford Grange
	Olivia Gentry, Bushy Fork Grange
	Nayhive Gonzalez, Bushy Fork Grange
	Nadia Punt, Troutman Grange
	Cole Settle, Little Mountain Grange



It is the time of year to apply for the Junior Leadership Team.

- Are you currently in the 6th or 7th grade?
- Have you been to Grange Camp at least once?
- Do you want to be a leader?

If you answered YES to these, then you can apply for the Junior Leadership Team. The application can be found at [ncgrange.com](http://ncgrange.com) on the homepage. The deadline is April 28, so get your applications in!

State Junior Director  
[junior@ncgrange.com](mailto:junior@ncgrange.com)

The North Carolina Legislature has been relatively quiet for the last few months. Most members of the General Assembly are currently working in their districts, apart from their respective committee meetings that they attend. All members will have a race in the election this year which is quite unusual. Therefore, there is quite a bit of pressure to raise money to fill their campaign coffers for reelection costs, which includes media buys, direct mail, signage, etc., all of which are expensive. They can raise money in this period until the 2018 Short Session begins on May 16th and can resume fundraising after the session is adjourned. Below are updates from various legislative committees.

### **Influenza**

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services, reported that there have been over 300 deaths this year due to the flu epidemic in North Carolina. If you received the flu shot, you were smart. Its effectiveness was around 36% for adults and 59% for children. She urged everyone to get the vaccination.

### **Prison Health**

The Opioid Sentencing Reform Task Force's meeting reported that prison inmates were not receiving adequate mental health resources due to the lack of funding for the state's jails.

### **Child Welfare and NC FAST**

Deputy Secretaries Susan Perry-Manning and Sam Gibbs presented on the implementation of the Federal Program for Child and Family Services known as NC FAST. According to WakeGOV.com, NC FAST (North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology) was developed as a tool to improve the way eligibility is determined and benefits are given for a whole spectrum of services such as Food and Nutrition Services, Medicaid, Work First and Child Care. The NC FAST program is designed to improve the way the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the 100 county departments of social services conduct business. Wake County economic services are in the midst of a multiyear rollout of the NC FAST case management system. NC FAST introduces new technological

tools and business processes that will enable staff to spend less time performing administrative tasks and more time assisting families ([www.wakegov.com](http://www.wakegov.com)). After the presentation there was continued discussion around child fatality, the implementation of new software for the Department of Social Services and the delay in how the state is trying to improve child welfare outcomes.

### **Appointees to the State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement**

In mid-March, Gov. Cooper finally made the eight needed appointments to a very troubled State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement. The board's logistical responsibilities depend on the state board's appointment of the members of the local boards. The eight members came from a list provided by the two parties with the most registered affiliates, the Democratic and Republican parties. The appointees are Joshua Dale Malcom (Robeson County, Supreme Court Justice of Lumbee Tribe of NC); Valerie Johnson (Durham County, attorney); Stella Anderson (Watauga County, ASU professor); Stacy "Four" Eggers, IV (Watauga County, attorney); John Randolph Hemphill (Wake County, attorney); John Malachi Lewis (Cabarrus County, Deputy Council for NC Republican Party); and Ken Raymond (Forsyth County, business owner).

### **FROM THE HILL**

For this issue of Grange News, I have included excerpts of interest from our National Legislative Director Burton Eller's "View from the Hill." Burton does a super job of capsulizing the chaos in DC and putting it in words that make sense. This was his policy update and news from February.

### **OVERVIEW**

In Washington these days, everyone and everything appear to be completely off balance at times. On any given day and on any given issue, there are several competing forces in play. The liberal and conservative media report on the same topic from such differing perspectives that it is hard sometimes to believe they are talking about the same subject. Caucuses within political parties play the spoiler as much as competing parties once were. Every time

a bipartisan solution begins to develop, there is a rush to discredit it no matter how good or bad it is. Unsubstantiated reporting seems to be rampant and every blogger tries to be an expert. Social media at times is as important as factual information in forming a large chunk of public opinion. Heavy political attention and big campaign dollars are already turning toward midterm elections this fall. Primary campaigns are underway in many states for Senators and districts for Representatives. Close to 20 senior House Republicans have announced their retirement, sparking excitement among Democrats about their possibility to recapture the House majority. Democrats may be unlikely to gain control of the Senate since 26 Democrats and just eight Republicans are up for reelection. Most incumbent Republican senators continue to be popular back home. Legislation has been slow to move and will get even slower now. Unfortunately, the legislative window is closing. By Memorial Day, any action on bills will be hard to come by. By Labor Day, campaigning takes over the legislative highway and most legislation goes into neutral.

### **FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

#### **Budget & Farm Bill**

The Senate and House Agriculture Committees heaved a huge sigh of relief when the two-year budget deal won approval in Congress. Contained therein were lynchpin "fixes" for dairy and cotton producers. Funding offsets for these farm policy revisions will not have to be accounted for in the 2018 Farm Bill baseline, thus removing a huge obstacle from upcoming farm bill negotiations. The National Grange supported this action in line with policy adopted in Spokane. Other provisions included in the budget deal are as follows:

- Includes \$2.4 billion in aid to producers hurt by last year's hurricanes, fires and other natural disasters.
- Lifts the \$125,000 payment cap for producers who sold livestock at a reduced price due to natural disaster.
- Removes the \$20 million cap on the Emergency Assistance Program for livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish.
- Double acreage eligible for the Tree



Assistance Program from 500 to 1,000 acres

- Revives the dollar/gallon tax credit for biodiesel.

Ranking minority member of the House Agriculture Committee Colin Peterson (D-MN) is also gathering support for an additional dairy policy change that would allow dairymen to insure margins (difference between milk prices and feed costs) up to \$9.50 from the current \$8 limit. We expect committee actions on the 2018 Farm Bill to move right along once they start. Agriculture is one of the few areas where bipartisanship is still possible. The big unknown will be scheduling Senate and House floor time earlier rather than later in an election year.

## **HEALTHCARE:**

### **IPAB**

The National Grange was very active in the permanent repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) in the recent two-year congressional budget package. IPAB, authorized in the Affordable Care Act, was to be a board of Presidential appointees charged with recommending cuts to Medicare if spending growth reached an arbitrary level. The HHS Secretary would implement recommendations. Neither the recommendations nor the actions would be subject to administrative or judicial review.

### **Medicare Part B Costs**

Betsy Huber wrote Seema Vera, Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, supporting the Director's Request for Information (RFI) on lowering Medicare Part D costs. A major objective is to drive down patient out-of-pocket costs at pharmacy counters. CMS hopes to identify ways to increase accountability for Pharmacy Benefit Managers and make it harder for them to pocket rebates and discounts intended for patients.

### **Rural Health Care**

Congress' budget deal restored funding for two critical rural health programs. Community Health Centers were allocated \$3.8 billion for 2018 and \$4 billion for 2019. CHCs care for about 27 million patients nationwide. Congress extended the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for another ten years. CHIP serves as a safety net for about 8.6 million kids nationwide. The National Grange supported these initiatives.

## **IMMIGRATION:**

### **False Start**

The Senate turned to open-ended immigration debate the week of February 12. Debate ended four days later with no immigration solutions in sight. The core objective was to see if Senators could somehow agree on a "four pillars" strategy that President Trump and a bipartisan group of lawmakers initially agreed to. The four pillars consisted of a fix for the following:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or "Dreamers")
- A border security package
- Family-based immigration ("Chain Migration")
- The diversity lottery (Visas to immigrants from countries with historically low migration levels)

## **Ag Workers**

Agriculture producers are still looking for a fix to the agriculture workforce crisis. Ag lobbyists (including the Grange) were hoping for an immigration package to pass the Senate so the House could include Goodlatte's (R-VA) Ag Act creating a new and simpler H-2C two-year work permit program for agriculture. Frankly, any chance now for an ag worker bill to pass Congress in this election year may be slim.

## **Complications**

While most producers support Goodlatte's proposed H-2C ag worker bill, the Western Growers (fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, tree nuts) are now opposing it. The Growers object to the requirement that longtime ag workers must return to their home countries to apply for a new H-2C visa. This split among Agriculture further dooms chances for ag worker legislation for a while.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Debate on the Hill now moves to infrastructure. Rural infrastructure needs are a priority for both the Administration and Congress. President Trump still insists that 25 percent of any infrastructure funding package go to rural areas. The President and Congress say rural broadband expansion is a priority corner post within rural infrastructure as is rural health care. Keeping these two priorities at the forefront of the infrastructure agenda for the President and Congress will be a challenge for the Grange.

## **NET NEUTRALITY:**

Net Neutrality is a tough issue, principally because of its name. Net Neutrality defines broadband as a communications service that essentially makes it a public utility. Well, everyone does not need the same service at the same price for the same priorities at the same speed. FCC Chairman Pai is proposing to classify broadband as an information service not subject to 1930's telephone monopoly regulations. The Grange has supported Chairman Pai's proposal at the FCC and to several members of Congress. The Grange's mission is to connect rural and small-town America's schools, libraries, farms, hospitals, clinics, first responders and entrepreneurial start-ups. Because of distance and sparse populations, the "payoff" is not there under the utility-based system like Net Neutrality. New connectivity technology is evolving fast that can get through buildings, around hills and over mountains over longer distances. For rural America, it is all about getting connected, not how fast or how cheaply Snapchat, video games, latest movies or other apps download.

As an additional note to Burton's overview, the NC Grange was also very active in lobbying for IPAB repeal. In addition, we have met with members of our NC Delegation regarding Medicare Part D which has been threatened by the renegotiation of the payment structure of Part D drugs and has the potential to levy an undue burden on the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

# YOUR 2018 YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM



## *Lillie Griffin youth team*

**Hometown:** Troutman, NC  
**Grange:** Troutman Grange in Iredell County  
**School:** High School Senior, attending UNC-Charlotte to study Biology and become a surgeon.  
**Hobbies:** soccer, music, napping  
**Favorite Thing about Grange:** My favorite thing about the Grange is the people.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** Amazing friends I would have not met if it weren't for the Grange.



## *Zac Mazzag youth ambassador*

**Hometown:** Troutman, NC  
**Grange:** Troutman Grange in Iredell County  
**School:** Freshman at UNC Charlotte  
**Major:** Political Science with a minor in Legal Studies  
**Career Goal:** To become a lawyer  
**Hobbies:** politics, history, soccer, golf, bowling, and eating Japanese Food  
**Favorite Thing about Grange:** All of the friends and opportunities Grange has given me. I've gained leadership experience; I've been able to travel; and I've developed life-long relationships with people.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** Leadership experience through all of the different Grange activities and events I have participated in.



## *Margie Griffin youth team*

**Hometown:** Troutman, NC  
**Grange:** Troutman Grange in Iredell County  
**School:** Sophomore at UNC Wilmington  
**Major:** Creative Writing, plans to become a writer  
**Hobbies:** reading, writing, painting, watching Supernatural, Disney movies  
**Favorite Thing about Grange:** All of the friends who have turned into family.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** Leadership skills confidence.



## *Lucas Carter youth team*

**Hometown:** Garner, NC  
**Grange:** Southern Wake Grange in Wake County  
**School:** High School Senior, will attend Duke University  
**Hobbies:** photography, videography, running, reading, sports, Netflix  
**Favorite Thing about Grange:** "All of the amazing and accepting people, and how everyone is whole-heartedly welcome into the organization. I like how as youth, we're taught new skills while also having fun."  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** I've gained skills for meeting new people and interacting with others. Grange has helped me to be willing to open up and by myself around others, and I've been able to apply those skills outside of Grange, too.





## *Ashber Long youth team*

**Hometown:** Roxboro, NC      **Grange:** Bushy Fork Grange in Person County  
**School:** High School Senior, will attend NC State University to study Elementary Education and become a teacher.  
**Hobbies:** working with kids, driving, watching Netflix, and taking BuzzFeed quizzes  
**Fav Thing about Grange:** My favorite thing about the Grange is getting to spend time with some of my closest friends.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** A voice and leadership capabilities



## *Tyler Leonard youth team*

**Hometown:** Clemmons, NC      **Grange:** Arcadia Grange in Davidson County  
**School:** High School Junior  
**Hobbies:** watching TV dramas, reading, bike riding, collecting bucket hats, hanging out with friends  
**Fav Thing about Grange:** Being able to have time away from normal, everyday life to have fun with friends and meet new people.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** A voice. I used to be very shy but look at where I am now! I've gained a voice, which has given me much needed confidence and comfort being myself.



## *Nick Jones youth team*

**Hometown:** Garner, NC      **Grange:** Southern Wake Grange in Wake County  
**School:** High School Senior, will attend UNC-Charlotte to study Mechanical Engineering  
**Hobbies:** sports, woodworking, guitar, music  
**Fav Thing about Grange:** The amazing people I have met and become friends with.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?** Confidence



## *Rylee Furr youth ambassador*

**Hometown:** Mt. Pleasant, NC      **Grange:** St. John's Grange in Cabarrus County  
**School:** Sophomore at NC State University  
**Major:** Polymer and Color Chemistry  
**Career Goal:** To become an orthodontist; or to do chemical analysis for FBI  
**Hobbies:** politics, softball, basketball, community service with her sorority  
**Favorite Thing about Grange:** My friends and the opportunities it's given me like traveling to National Grange Convention and competing in the National Grange ParliPro Contest.  
**What have you gained most by being in the Grange?"** Leadership skills, friends and confidence

# DR. BILL COLLINS RECEIVES THE WATAUGA MEDAL

BY: JIMMY GENTRY

PHOTOS BY ROGER WINSTEAD

The highest non-academic award that is presented at NC State University is the Watauga Medal. On Friday, March 2, this distinguished award was presented to Dr. Bill Collins by Chancellor Randy Woodson, and Board of Trustees Chair Jimmy Clark. Dr. Collins is a member of Capitol Grange in Raleigh and also works part-time for NC Grange. Most of his career was with teaching, research, and extension, specializing in tobacco. He is not only well-known in North Carolina, but also in tobacco producing states and countries. His impact on students, farmers, and other professionals has been tremendous. Even though he is retired, Collins still has an office at NC State volunteering in the Advancement Department and co-leading the NC Agricultural Leadership Development program. He also continues to teach an annual short course for young tobacco producers.

Several years ago, the William K. and Ann T. Collins Professorship was established to support an Extension position in tobacco production. Many associates who have high respect for Dr. Collins contributed, including NC Grange. "It was a privilege to be present at the awards ceremony to see Bill recognized in such a special way. I have a high degree of respect for him, and he has provided valuable help to me. I am proud to have him as part of the Grange family," said Jimmy Gentry, NC Grange President.







In the last column, we discussed having faith. The question now is, "How do we seek guidance from God, and how do we know His will for our lives?" Many people have pondered this question, and perhaps some of our Grangers do also. The Bible has the answers to that question. The more we read the Bible, the more we can discern the will of God because it says that the Holy Spirit will help us to understand the word and will guide us in all things.

We establish a relationship with God, our Father, when we take the time to pray to him and spend time in His word. God's will does not contradict His word. Scripture tells us that God's will is that we "love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves" [Luke 10:27]. Love is one of the major tenants of God's will. We know that God loves us. He loved us so much that he sent His Son Jesus into this world to take our sin on Himself, to die on the cross in our place. On the third day after His death he was resurrected. The scripture says He returned to His Father in heaven and "sits at the right-hand of God the Father" [Romans 8:34]. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ every year at Easter.

God's will is also for us to be kind to our fellow man. Micah 6:8 says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love kindness (mercy) and to walk humbly with your God." Proverbs 19:17 says, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."

God also wants a relationship with us. Psalms 86:14 says, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."

He also wants us to pray to Him. Second Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive them, and heal their land."

As we respond to God's laws and to Christ in obedience, we receive further insight into the true character of God. And remember, the will of God will never lead us where the grace of God cannot keep us.

Peace to you.  
Jerry

Supporters of NC FFA - You are invited to purchase North Carolina FFA toy trucks to support NC FFA. We have a limited quantity of toy trucks that will be sold for a reduced price in bulk. The toy trucks can be purchased for \$60 per case plus shipping and handling. Trucks can only be purchased per case and there are six trucks in each case. The toy trucks will make a great gift for the adult collector or for the playful child who enjoys playing with trucks. The limited edition truck is a 1/64 scale transporter. The truck was created in partnership with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Southern States, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University. The proceeds will benefit North Carolina FFA! Please email Mrs. Denning Varnell (denning\_varnell@ncsu.edu) to place your order today!



## *In Memoriam*

*Mrs. J. B. Lewis*

*Mr. Charles Hooker\**

*Mr. Ray Johnson*

*Mr. Thelbert Leggett*

*Associate*

*Little Mountain Grange*

*Ferguson Grange*

*Beaufort County Grange*

*You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.  
Psalm 138:1 \* 50 Year Member*

# NC Grange Represented at the 2018 Cooperative Council of NC Annual Meeting

The NC Grange has a long history with the Cooperative Council of North Carolina. As a Council member, we have provided input to their organization by having a representative serve on their Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to serve the Grange in this capacity for the last several years.

While the NC Grange is not a cooperative, the Grange's functions and goals are similar. We do adhere to the seven cooperative principles, and we corroborate with many local, regional and national cooperatives to benefit our members. If you are not familiar with the seven cooperative principles, let us look at them and see how they apply to the Grange.

**Voluntary Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Membership in the Grange is totally voluntary and is open to everyone. Our bylaws require Granges to have both male and female members. Our non-partisan status allows open discussion and involvement in developing Grange policy regardless of members' political party affiliation. When you observe our membership, you can see a wide range of socioeconomic members, yet all have an equal voice in the discussion and ultimate decisions of the Grange.

**Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

All of our members have an equal voice in the decisions of the Grange. A unique feature of our organization is that we are grassroots; therefore, the policies of the Grange originate from Local Granges.

**Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative.

This principle is also applicable to our organization. Grange members approve their Local Granges' membership dues and operating budgets. They also elect members to represent their Granges to approve these things and other business items on state and national levels.

**Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

Each Local and State Grange is able to operate independently under the bylaws that govern our organization. Granges determine

their own focus, projects, and programs for the betterment of their members and communities.

**Education, Training and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Education, training and information are huge functions of the Grange. This is seen in the programs conducted on all levels. Our youth program is an example of the education, training and development of our youth. Our grassroots legislative program provides information to the public and to elected officials, giving our members a voice.

**Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, regional, national and international structures.

The Grange has a history of working with other groups on many projects and issues for common causes and goals. We have partnerships with the NC Department of Agriculture, NC Soil & Water Conservation, Cooperative Extension, FFA, 4-H, universities, commodity groups, and many others. Local Granges sometimes partner with each other to conduct events and activities that strengthen specific causes in their communities.

**Social Responsibility:** While focused on members' needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and problems accepted by members.

The Grange has demonstrated this principle in many different ways. Examples in history include the early formation of utility cooperatives, the development of Cooperative Extension programs, and forming an insurance company to provide protection to the rural areas of North Carolina. We see this principle currently demonstrated in community forums, community service projects, and in our legislative activities.

After reviewing these seven principles, it is easy to see why working with the Cooperative Council of North Carolina is a good fit for the Grange. It also reminds us that today's Grange has a lot to offer everyone. I would encourage you to become actively engaged with your local and state Grange. Together, we can collectively and positively impact our communities, our state and our nation like never before!



## PAYNE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

Kelley Payne from Troutman Grange has been selected to attend the 2018 New Century Farmer Conference, July 8-14, in Des Moines, Iowa. An application process is conducted to determine who the attendees will be. The program is conducted through the National FFA Organization.

The conference will explore new business opportunities for farm operations and how to create a vision statement for a farm. Banking in relation to farming will be discussed. Another important topic will explore how young farmers can overcome obstacles that they will encounter.

To qualify, the applicant must be between the ages of 18-24, and must either be attending, or a recent graduate of a post-secondary educational institution. Experience in agriculture is required, and the applicant must show that he or she plans to return to a career in production agriculture, or training in this field. Furthermore, the applicant must be a former FFA member, or a current FFA Alumni member.

Payne is currently a student in the Agribusiness Program at Mitchell Community College, and plans to attend Mount Olive University in the fall.

Furthermore, Payne is also the recipient of the National Grange GROW Club Scholarship. Selected based on academics and Grange involvement, Payne was one of two students selected from across the nation to receive the scholarship.



## LITTLE MOUNTAIN GRANGE COLLECTS FOOD

BY: NINA HAYES

On February 4, 2018, Little Mountain Grange #601 partnered with Boy Scout Troop #656 of the Laurel District of the Old Hickory Council to participate in Scouting for Food at our Grange Hall. 430 pounds of food were donated by the community and given to two community food banks: Oak Level and Austin Baptist Churches Combined Food Pantry and Traphill's Helping Hands Food Pantry. Participants were treated to a free chicken stew, oyster stew and pinto bean supper followed by blue grass music by The Sassafras Band for an enjoyable time.



Be sure to let us know what YOUR Grange is doing for Grange Month so we can share it with everyone.

Also, if you are not receiving emails from us, visit [ncgrange.com](http://ncgrange.com) and put your email in the popup to get on our list. Don't worry, we won't spam you!

Be sure to follow along on social media, too.



@ncgrange

@ncgrangeyouth

[facebook.com/ncsgrange](https://facebook.com/ncsgrange)

## 150 for 150 CONTEST

Don't forget!!!

Our 150 for 150 Contest is going all the way through the end of April. If you recruit at least ten new members, you are eligible to win \$150 from the NC Grange. All ages are welcome to participate in this contest.

Official rules can be found at [www.ncgrange.com/150th-anniversary](http://www.ncgrange.com/150th-anniversary). You can also enter your new members to count towards your total at that link.

We are striving to have a large gain in membership to celebrate Grange Month and the 150th anniversary of the National Grange. Help us make the NC Grange and YOUR local Grange stronger for the future!



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NCGRANGE.COM

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