

The official publication of the NC State Grange

November / December 2016

GRANGE NEWS



150th
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
WASHINGTON D.C.

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Events

2016
Grange Office Closed
December 23 & 26

2017
Winter Youth Conference
TBD

Family Conference
March 3-5
Carolina Beach, NC



1000+
**PAIRS OF SHOES
COLLECTED AT
NATIONAL
CONVENTION!**



We recently completed the annual National Grange Convention that was held in Herndon, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC. During the course of the convention, we had a large group from North Carolina to attend. North Carolina members fulfilled responsibilities with the

hospitality room and transportation. Our youth served on the officer team, opening the convention on Friday morning. Other youth served as trumpet girls, participated in public speaking, sign-a-song, and the ambassador program. Our male and female ambassadors both placed first runner up in the national program. The group Canaan Land participated in the talent show and won the popular vote that was conducted. The sign-a-song group was placed first by the judges. One of our Grangers served as a marching candidate in the seventh degree. I received several compliments on the trumpet girls, not only on the good job they did, but also on the fact that they are good kids. We had two Parliamentary Procedure teams to compete, one placing first and the other one third. This makes the third year consecutively that NC youth have won this contest. Five of our local Granges were designated as "Distinguished Granges." We also had 2 members to participate in the Communication Fellows programs with National Grange.

The point I am leading up to is that I am extremely proud of our Grangers from North Carolina. Our State Grange is strong because of who you are, and what you do for the organization. You are talented in a variety of ways. You have different skills and abilities. Putting all of those talents and abilities to use makes our organization better. You are "good people", the kind of people who care about each other and the welfare of your communities.

Yes, during the week of National Convention I was extremely proud of those of you who attended. It was great to see you in meetings, events, and in the hallways. However, my appreciation for our members extends year-round, not just at a convention. It is a privilege to work for you and with you. As we approach 2017, I look forward to seeing all of the great things that you will do to make our organization even stronger.

"Out of all the Grange events I have been to, National Convention really made me realize why I am a Grange member. I was able to meet people from across the country and spend time with my NC Grange friends, all of which I immediately had a connecting bond with. The Grange is that bond that I have never had anywhere else. It was definitely amazing to see so many people come together for the same purpose. I definitely will be going back next year!"

-Evan Hill



NC Grange Youth have a great time serving as National Officers!

"I really enjoyed my trip to Nationals. It was a great opportunity to learn and meet new people. I am so proud to have represented the NC Grange."

-Katie Leonard

"Nationals was a lot of fun. I had a great time getting to hang out with good friends, and being a trumpet girl was definitely an experience I will never forget."

-Emma Stack

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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.

SLAB APPLE PIE

PATTY SWING | ARCADIA GRANGE
1ST PLACE ADULT APPLE PIE

2 ROLLED PIE CRUSTS
1 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR
3 TBLS FLOUR
1/4 TSP CINNAMON
1/4 TSP NUTMEG
1/4 TSP SALT
1 1/2 TBLS LEMON JUICE
9 CUPS THINLY SLICED APPLES

GLAZE:
1 CUP POWDERED SUGAR
3 TBLS MILK

PREHEAT OVEN: 450 DEGREES

ROLL PIE CRUSTS INTO RECTANGLES AND FIT INTO A PAN. CUT OFF EXCESS FROM EDGES. MIX ALL INGREDIENTS AND PUT INTO CRUST. DOT WITH PADS OF BUTTER AND CROSS THE REST OF THE CRUST OVER THE TOP.

BAKE FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES OR UNTIL BUBBLY. MIX POWDERED SUGAR AND MILK AND DRIZZLE OVER PIE. ALLOW TO COOL BEFORE SERVING.

FRESH APPLE RAISIN NUT COOKIES

SHARON RITCHIE
ST. JOHNS GRANGE
1ST APPLE COOKIE

- 1 STICK BUTTER
- 1 1/2 C. BROWN SUGAR
- 1/2 TSP. SALT
- 1/2 TSP. NUTMEG
- 1/2 TSP. CINNAMON
- 1 EGG
- 2 C. FLOUR
- 1 TSP. SODA
- 1 C. FINELY CHOPPED APPLE
- 1 C. RAISINS
- 1 C. CHOPPED NUTS
- 1/4 C. MILK

CREAM TOGETHER BUTTER, BROWN SUGAR, SALT, NUTMEG, CINNAMON, AND EGG.

ADD FLOUR AND SODA. STIR IN APPLE, RAISINS, NUTS, AND MILK. DROP BY TEASPOONFUL ON GREASED COOKIE SHEET. BAKE 8 -10 MINUTES AT 350 DEGREES.

YIELD: 3 1/2 TO 4 DOZENS COOKIES.

WHITE CHOCOLATE SWEET POTATO CHEESECAKE

SUSAN ALBRIGHT
TROUTMAN GRANGE
1ST PLACE ADULT
SWEET POTATO CAKE

CRUST

CHOCOLATE COOKIE CRUST:

1½ CUPS CREAM-FILLED CHOCOLATE SANDWICH CRUMBS (ABOUT 18 SANDWICH COOKIES, SUCH AS OREO COOKIES)

FILLING:

- 12 OUNCES WHITE CHOCOLATE, CHOPPED INTO SMALL PIECES
- 3 (8 OUNCE) PACKAGES CREAM CHEESE, ROOM TEMPERATURE
- 1 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR
- ½ CUP WHIPPING (HEAVY) CREAM
- ¾ CUP SWEET POTATO PUREE
- 1 TABLESPOON PURE VANILLA EXTRACT
- ½ TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON
- ¼ TEASPOON GROUND GINGER
- ¼ TEASPOON GROUND NUTMEG
- 4 LARGE EGGS, ROOM TEMPERATURE

GARNISH:

ABOUT 6 OUNCES WHITE CHOCOLATE FOR CURLS AND SHAVINGS

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. PREPARE ONE 9-INCH ROUND CHEESECAKE PAN OR SPRINGFORM PAN WITH 3-INCH SIDES; BUTTER THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF PAN WITH 1 TABLESPOON OF MELTED BUTTER.

CHOCOLATE COOKIE CRUST:

1. CRUSH OR GRIND THE WHOLE COOKIES, INCLUDING THE CREAM FILLING, TO MAKE CRUMBS. TIP: USE FOOD PROCESSOR OR SMALL GRINDER.
2. POUR CRUMB MIXTURE INTO THE SPRINGFORM PAN. USING THE BACK OF A LARGE SPOON OR THE FLAT BOTTOM OF A MEASURING CUP OR DRINKING GLASS, PRESS THE CRUMB MIXTURE FIRMLY AND EVENLY ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE PAN. PLACE THE PAN ON A BAKING SHEET.
3. BAKE 10 MINUTES & REMOVE. PLACE ON A WIRE COOLING RACK TO COOL.
4. WHEN COOLED, WRAP BOTTOM AND SIDES OF PAN IN A DOUBLE LAYER OF HEAVY DUTY ALUMINUM FOIL TO PREPARE FOR THE BAIN MARIE WATER BATH. THE FOIL IS TO PREVENT ANY WATER FROM SEEPING INTO THE CHEESECAKE THROUGH THE PAN SEAMS.
5. REDUCE OVEN TO 325 DEGREES.

FILLING:

1. IN TOP OF A DOUBLE BOILER OVER HOT WATER, MELT THE WHITE CHOCOLATE. SET ASIDE TO COOL SLIGHTLY.
2. IN A LARGE BOWL, ADD THE CREAM CHEESE AND SUGAR; MIX ON MEDIUM LOW SPEED WITH AN ELECTRIC MIXER UNTIL SMOOTH AND CREAMY, 1 TO 2 MINUTES. SCRAPE THE MIXTURE OFF THE PADDLE AND SCRAPE DOWN THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF THE BOWL WITH A RUBBER SPATULA SO THE MIXTURE BLENDS EVENLY AND THERE ARE NO LUMPS.
3. ADD THE MELTED CHOCOLATE, WHIPPING CREAM, SWEET POTATO, VANILLA, CINNAMON, GINGER, AND NUTMEG; CONTINUE BEATING ON MEDIUM LOW SPEED UNTIL THOROUGHLY COMBINED, ABOUT 1 MINUTE.
4. ADD THE EGGS 2 AT A TIME, BEATING UNTIL THOROUGHLY COMBINED, ABOUT 1 MINUTE, SCRAPING THE BOWL BETWEEN ADDITIONS. TIP: CRACK THE EGGS INTO A SMALL BOWL AND WHISK WITH A FORK TO THOROUGHLY BREAK UP THE EGG BEFORE ADDING TO THE CHEESE MIXTURE. TIP: DO NOT OVERBEAT THE CHEESECAKE BATTER. BLEND THE INGREDIENTS QUICKLY TO ADD AS FEW AIR BUBBLES AS POSSIBLE. THE INGREDIENTS MUST BE WELL BLENDED, BUT EXCESSIVE BEATING CREATES TOO MANY AIR POCKETS WHICH CAN CAUSE THE CHEESECAKE TO PUFF UP TOO MUCH DURING BAKING, AND THEN CRACK DURING THE COOLING PROCESS.
5. LET THE FILLING REST ABOUT 5 MINUTES TO ALLOW AIR BUBBLES TO RISE TO THE SURFACE.
6. MEANWHILE, BRING A LARGE POT OF WATER TO BOIL TO USE FOR THE BAIN MARIE WATER BATH.
7. POUR THE CHEESECAKE FILLING INTO THE GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST.
8. BAKE: SET THE FOIL WRAPPED SPRINGFORM PAN IN A LARGER PAN OR ROASTING PAN AND TRANSFER TO THE OVEN. CAREFULLY POUR BOILING WATER INTO THE ROASTING PAN TO COME HALFWAY UP THE SIDES OF THE SPRINGFORM PAN, AND CLOSE THE OVEN DOOR. BAKE 60 TO 80 MINUTES. TIP: THE CHEESECAKE IS DONE WHEN THE EDGES ARE SET BUT THE CENTER 2 TO 3 INCHES ARE STILL A POOL OF LIQUID BATTER. THE CAKE SHOULD LOOK AS THOUGH IT HAS PUFFED A LITTLE AND JUST BARELY BEGINNING TO BROWN. THE CENTER WILL STILL BE SOFT AND JIGGLY WHEN THE PAN IS LIGHTLY JARRED OR TAPPED WITH A SPOON.
9. REMOVE FROM OVEN, PLACE SPRINGFORM PAN ON A WIRE COOLING RACK TO COOL. IMMEDIATELY RUN A THIN KNIFE AROUND THE EDGE OF THE PAN, GENTLY PRESSING INTO THE SIDE OF THE PAN TO AVOID GOUGING THE CAKE. THIS ALLOWS THE CAKE TO CONTRACT AWAY FROM THE SIDES OF THE PAN AS IT COOLS, HELPING TO PREVENT CRACKS.
10. WHEN CHEESECAKE IS COMPLETELY COOLED, COVER THE PAN AND REFRIGERATE FOR 12 TO 24 HOURS BEFORE SERVING. TRY TO AVOID HAVING THE COVERING TOUCH THE TOP OF THE CHEESECAKE AS THIS MAY MAR THE SURFACE.

GARNISH:

1. WHEN READY TO SERVE, DECORATE WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE CURLS.

150TH NATIONAL CONVENTION



November 15, 2016 marked the opening of the 150th National Grange Convention, held in Herndon, Virginia, just outside of Washington D.C. Over 50 Grangers from across North Carolina traveled to Herndon for the convention via car, tour bus and plane.

While at convention, Grangers had a variety of experiences, including workshops, speakers, tours, session, and even working! Since National Convention was held in the Eastern Region, North Carolina members were responsible for some of the volunteer work behind the scenes of National Convention. Joyce Clodfelter, the North Carolina State Grange Family Living & Community Service Director, chaired the hospitality room on Wednesday. She had lots help from lots of NC folks from across the state to help keep all the National Grange attendees fed with North Carolina staples, such as SunDrop, Cheerwine, Duck Donuts and barbeque! This committee even played host to the Distinguished Grange Banquet that afternoon, which was also held in the hospitality room. Grangers representing four of the five Distinguished Granges, were in attendance to receive their recognitions from National President, Besty Huber. Grantham Grange was on it's fifth year receiving the award, and were honored with a plaque.

NC Grange Board Vice Chairman, David Allen of Corriher Grange, also chaired the transportation committee for the convention. He and other North Carolina members, assisted Grangers arriving into Dulles Airport to find the Hilton. He also worked hard running errands all week for the host

committee, making sure everyone had all the supplies needed to make this convention a success.

All North Carolina members had arrived by Thursday, just in time to tour downtown Washington D.C. Members took in the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History and Museum of American History. Some of the highlights were viewing the collection of First Lady's gowns, Dorothy's red slippers and Archie Bunker's chair. Grangers boarded the buses for dinner at Union Station before making their way over to the monuments, White House and National Grange office.

Friday, the Grange youth opened session at 8:30AM. The drill team completed an impressive march, and Phillip Vonada, from Pennsylvania served as President. Youth members, August Howerton, Lille Griffin, Katie Leonard, Landon Woolard, and Evan Hill served as National officers as well. That evening, Cannanland, comprised of Shirley Edwards, LaRue Tart and Jimmy Martin, took the stage to wow everyone at the Evening of Excellence. They represented North Carolina so well and made their home Granges of Grantham and Brogden very proud with their performance.

Many North Carolina Grangers enjoyed watching the sixth and seventh degrees on Saturday before the final banquet that evening. The western region, unveiled their plans after dinner for the 2017 National Convention to be held in Spokane, Washington next November. While there will not be a bus tour out there, we encourage you all to start planning to attend the 151st National Grange Convention next year!



LEFT (TOP-BOTTOM) WITH NATIONAL PRESIDENT, BETSY HUBER: MARTHA SUTHER & SHARON RITCHIE (ST. JOHN'S), JIMMY GENTRY FOR NC STATE GRANGE, JOHN CRAWFORD (GRANTHAM), JOYCE CLODFELTER & LEIGH PAYNE (TROUTMAN), NANCY SMITH & PATTY SWING (ARCADIA)



Great memories made at the 150th National Grange Convention. Enjoyed being with everyone. Thanks To All.
- Charlotte Hudson

I had a wonderful time and it was a great experience. First time attending National and it was so rewarding to learn the new things and to take part in so much. Everyone is so very nice and so welcoming to all that were there. Love the tour and so interesting to learn about the history and seeing part of history in our country.

It was so exciting to see the Grange building and would have loved to have seen the inside and hopefully can one day.

I was so honor to attend Seventh Degree. It was a very wonderful experience. So very interesting to see and learn all that we stand for. We will always remember those things.

- Pearl Warren



Judy Brodgon collected 163 new pairs of shoes and 201 pairs of socks, Her sister, Pearl Warren, collected 204 new shoes, 12 used shoes and 50 new socks, Total of shoes and socks by these two sisters was 834. These were for the National Convention. For our NC Grange Convention, together they collected 800 pairs of footed PJ's.

Judy and Pearl love our Grange, they do all they can to support us.

-Carolyn Jernigan



The hospitality team working hard on Wednesday!



Josh Barfeild and Justin Leonard served as Communication Fellows at the 2016 National Convention. They worked to produce Grange Radio & the *Patrons Chain* newspaper each day

2016 Election Update

November 8, 2016 was an astonishing night in this country. The polls could not predict it, nor could the political soothsayers who had attempted to forecast some realistic expectations during the election season. President-elect Donald Trump not only won overwhelmingly, but many Republican candidates rode his coattails in races that in many cases the Democratic candidate was predicted to win. Closer to home, according to the News and Observer on Nov. 26th, North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory's campaign announced he is ready to withdraw his request for a statewide recount if a new "hand count" of Durham County votes will produce the same results as Election Day.

United States post-2016 Election statistics:

(courtesy of McGuire Woods Consulting)

Republicans:

32 Legislatures

17 Veto-Proof Majorities

33 Governors

25 States with Legislature & Governor

Democrats:

13 Legislatures

4 Veto-Proof Majorities

17 Governors

6 States with Legislature & Governor

Many of President-elect Trump's cabinet positions have been announced. They are as follows along with their current affiliations:

Commodity Futures Trading Commission/Farm Credit Admin – Sharon Brown-Hruska, NERA Economic Consulting
Department of Agriculture – Joel Leftwich, Senate Agriculture Committee

Department of Education – James Manning, Consultant

Department of Energy – Thomas Pyle, Institute for Energy Research

Department of Health and Human Services – Andrew Bremberg – Right Policy, LLC

Department of Homeland Security – James Carafano, The Heritage Foundation and Mike Dougherty, Immigration and Customs Enforcement during the George W. Bush administration

Department of Justice – James Burnham, Jones Day LLP

Department of Interior – Doug Domenech, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Department of the Treasury – Eileen O'Connor, Attorney

Department of Transportation – Nancy Butler, Retired from AE-COM (engineering firm)

Department of Veterans Affairs – Michael Meese – American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association

Environmental Protection Agency – Myron Ebell, Competitive Enterprise Institute (courtesy of McGuire Woods Consulting)

The North Carolina General Assembly begins the 2017 long session on January 11, 2017. Issues that will more than likely be on the agenda include:

Redistricting

Potential Changes to HB 2

Tax Reform

Education Reform

Comprehensive Transportation Funding Reform

Annual Regulatory Reform Legislation

Economic Development Modifications

North Carolina post-2016 Election statistics:

In North Carolina, Democrats gained 4 seats in the House of Representatives that are currently held by Republicans:

Rep. Marilyn Avila of Wake County

Rep. Bob Bryan of Mecklenburg Co.

Rep. Charles Jeter of Mecklenburg Co.

Rep. Gary Pendleton of Wake Co.

Also in the House, Republicans gained 4 seats that are currently held by Democrats/Unaffiliated:

Rep. Brad Salmon

Rep. Joe Sam Queen of Haywood Co.

Rep. Paul Tine of Dare Co.

Rep. Ken Waddell of Columbus Co.

House Numbers:

Republicans: 75

Democrats: 45

Number Needed for Veto-Proof Majority: 72

Change from 15-16: 0

New Faces: 23

Incumbents Defeated: 4

In the North Carolina Senate, Republicans gained one additional seat currently held by a Democrat:

Incumbent Democrat Jane Smith of Robeson County was defeated by J.R. Britt. (Note-Republicans did not lose any seats)

US and NC races are outlined below. The NC House leadership positions are in bold. To date, the NC Senate leadership positions have not been announced.

If you are unsure of your US Congressional district you can easily find it at: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/NC>

Your NC Senate and House of Representative District can be found at: <http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>



The Takeaway from our 150th Annual National Grange Session

During the 2016 annual meeting of the National Grange, we had the honor of hearing Congressman Glenn Thompson (Representative from Pennsylvania) speak at our Legislative Breakfast. He will be sworn in to his fifth term in January. Congressman Thompson graciously commended the Grange for all they have done to heal the Nation's wounds as far back as the Civil War. He drew a parallel of the hardships of that time period to what the United States is going through at present. "Given what we're experiencing right now, after the election that we just completed, the National Grange is as relevant today as it was 150 years ago" Rep Thompson said, "Just like the founding of this organization, your timing is such that it is time for healing in our land and I think the Grange can be a very big part of that."

Congressman Thompson spoke about the priorities of the next Farm Bill which will encompass the hugely

intricate relationship between world trade, politics and agriculture. "If you don't think that agriculture is a complicated issue, well it can get caught up in the geopolitics of our time," Thompson said. The Congressman spoke eloquently but passionately about agriculture and the critical role it plays in not only worldwide politics but in every aspect of our lives. For legislators, he said the priority is to "make sure we are doing the right thing by those who dedicate their lives to feeding us, providing the fiber for our clothes, the wood materials that build our homes; and they provide us energy because so much of America's energy comes off of our rural land."

I believe we all left that breakfast excited about the role we can play as Grangers in the future politics of our country. It was a great feeling to hear

from a member of our US Congress that not only appreciated the history of the National Grange but also offered encouragement to play an active role in the welfare of our country. He left us with a thought that we all know but it was great to hear it reinforced, "...the fact is, without a robust rural America, people in the cities will wake up in the cold, in the dark and hungry, and so we have really a moral obligation to make sure we do our best to fulfill the focus and mission of the National Grange." It would have been tough to walk away that morning and not feel inspired!





Good day, North Carolina Grangers!!!



Amazon has provided a great way for charitable organizations to raise funds. For those who shop with Amazon you can type in the address www.smile.amazon.com. First time users will have the opportunity to register and develop a password. You will also have the opportunity to select a charitable organization to support. In a previous NC State Grange Board meeting, it was decided that supporting the National Grange Foundation would be a good thing for us to do. You can go into a menu of charitable organizations on Amazon Smile and select the National Grange Foundation. From that point onward you will be registered as a supporter of the Grange Foundation until you choose to change the charity you wish to support. Once you are registered and make purchases, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to the National Grange Foundation.

When you shop for products on Amazon Smile, the prices will be the same as on Amazon.com. As you shop you will see eligible products marked "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation" on the product pages. If you are already registered with Amazon, you can use the same account with Amazon Smile. It is an easy shopping experience and will provide the opportunity to raise needed funds for the National Grange Foundation.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as your new National Junior Grange Director!

My name is Samantha Wilkins, born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. I have been a lifelong Grange member and have always stayed active in my local and state Grange. For the last several years I have served as the Junior Grange Director in Texas. I jokingly say I wear many hats: I am the youth director at our church, a member on several committees in our church, run a homeschool co-op in the rural outskirts of San Antonio, serve as a 4-h leader, and direct childrens plays in the local community theatre. Along with all my Grange activities: Junior Grange Director, serve on my state and local Grange Executive Committee, also overseeing the communications and memberships for the Texas State Grange. My most favorite hat to wear though is the one that says MOM. I have 4 amazing little boys; Daniel(10), Zachary(6), Tilden(4), and Jacob(2). I could not do half the things I do if it were not for the loving support of my husband Glenn.

I am so excited to be serving you as the National Junior Grange Director. I am anxious to see what the year holds and build new friendships across the nation. I am looking forward as we continue building a Junior Grange program that is a benefit to all members of the Grange. The Juniors are the future of the Grange. When I took a quick poll during national session asking how many have been in Grange since they were a Junior I was not surprised when well over half the members raised their hands. This is the time when we build and train the future leaders not only of our organization, but of our nation. I am blessed to be serving in a capacity that will be impacting those future leaders. Thank you for entrusting me with this incredible opportunity.

I cannot wait to visit North Carolina and meet many of you as we work together to build the footsteps of the Junior Grange.

Faternally yours,

Samantha Wilkins
National Junior Grange Director

In Memoriam

correction from previous issue

Ruth Corriher

Corriher Grange

*Mrs. Margie Spivey**

Mr. Adrian Pearson

Ms. Barbara Moore

Mrs. Spencer Woolard

Mr. Mitchell Whitley

*Ms. Martha Brawley**

Mr. John Mazag

Westbrook Grange

Schley Grange

Edneyville Grange

Beaufort Co. Grange

Beaufort Co. Grange

St. John's Grange

Troutman Grange

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

** 50 Year Member*

“What Now?”

The title is a very appropriate question given the recent outcome of our national as well as state elections. Starting out on the national scene, I can assure you with a fair degree of confidence that the ACA, or Healthcare Reform will be a political football once again and changes will come. We will only know the scope of those changes when the new leaders take offices and start their work in the coming months. I hope that both sides will work together, consulting with both leaders from the insurance industry and medical providers in their work to modify or create a new program that is economical sustainable for the consumer, provider, and the insurance industry. Unfortunately, the original ACA did nothing to contain cost or promote changes in lifestyles to manage many of our chronic issues that are driving the cost associated with health care. We must move from a “sick care” platform to a “wellness/preventative care” platform.

As we move forward, many issues of health care will require much consideration:

Individual Responsibility: Individuals are going to have responsibility for their lifestyle, care, and ultimate overall health. While there are some things that we cannot control, there are many we can. Our choices affect our health. Which would you choose as your morning snack most of the time, the donut or an apple? Both can be delicious, but the apple is by far the better choice. What is your idea of physical exercise? Is it a brisk walk around the neighborhood, or see who can get to the couch first to control the TV remote? Is it better to take care of the minor scrape before it turns into a major infection? This list could go on and on.

Provider Considerations: At what cost/charges can the provider maintain sustainability? We do not think a lot about the provider until we need them. Their role is similar to the fire department. Until we smell the smoke, we do not usually call them. When we call on the fire department, we assume they will bring all the equipment and personnel needed to put out the fire. Now just imagine calling the fire department and getting the answering machine – “leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as someone returns to the station.” How would you react when the fire chief tells you that the trucks do not have any fuel in them? Somehow, I do not think either of these situations are good in the time

of need. The same applies for our health care providers. They need the tools and resources at hand to take care of us as well as their being able to earn an income befitting the training and education required to efficiently and effectively take care of us.

Insurance Carrier Considerations: If I may, let me make an analogy of what I perceive the insurance carriers role to be. In this example, we have to move some dirt around the farm. There are several tools in the barn that I can accomplish this task with, or I can call a neighbor down the road that has some big machinery to take care of the job. If it is only a half of a wheelbarrow full, I am going to pull out that old long handled shovel and in just a jiffy the flowerbed is ready. If it is filling in the washed out road from the spring rains, I am pulling out the tractor and blade. If we have to dig out some sand rock out of the side of the hill to put on the roadbed, I am calling in the neighbor with the track loader. In comparison to the health insurance, if it is a minor thing – such as the poison oak that I got with the half wheelbarrow load of dirt for the flowerbed – I should be able to take care of that myself and not involve the insurance carrier. Now if that case of poison oak gets too bad and I am in need of more strength than the OTC can provide, then I will go see my primary care physician – which is still something I should not need a whole lot of help taking care of. Now, if that poison oak has gotten into my bloodstream and lungs, and the primary care physician sends me to the hospital for treatment – then like calling on the neighbor for his heavy machinery – I am going to need some help. The perception is – let the individual take care of the minor issues, and the insurance company take care of the major events, with some limited joint working together on the in-between situations. Think how ridiculous it would be for me to call in the track loader to move that half wheelbarrow full of dirt. Yet, many consumers expect the insurance industry to cover every cost. When they are required to do this, as many provisions of the ACA mandate, premiums will only continue to skyrocket – IF the company is to stay in business.

So back to the title – What Now? That is the question for all of us. We only have some control over one of the three areas addressed in this article. Let us all take ownership of our own health situation, making wise choices and making 2017 the best year yet!



NC GOES TO DC !

BY: JENNIE GENTRY
NC GRANGE YOUTH DIRECTOR



A large group of twenty-two youth and young adults from North Carolina attended the National Grange Convention in Herndon, Virginia, bringing home several big honors and awards. It was quite a successful trip for our youth and our state was represented well.

All of our young people who attended were involved in many different roles from contests to leadership positions. They attended workshops, visited Washington DC and it's beautiful monuments, engaged in service projects and workshops, and interacted with people from all over the country for this 150th convention. Among those who attended to represent NC were our State Youth Ambassadors, Darby Madewell and Bennett Yeargan, and Brodi Olds, who served as 2016 National Youth Ambassador.

Five NC youth were selected to serve as National Youth Officers this year. They had two late night practices to professionally open the Grange Session with a drill and officer opening on Friday morning of the convention. Made up of youth from across the country, the team did an excellent job with their opening, a long-time convention tradition. Serving from NC were Lillie Griffin as Flora, Evan Hill as Chaplain, August Howerton as Steward, Katie Leonard as Secretary, and Landon Woolard as a member of the Executive Committee.

We also had a large representation of youth and young adults in the convention's Evening of Excellence. August

Howerton delivered an excellent speech as part of the public speaking showcase after winning Best In Show at the state and regional contests. Our Group Sign-a-song Winners, a 10-person group, entertained the crowd by performing “Bella’s Finals” from the movie Pitch Perfect. Signing the song in sign language with dance moves in full movie character, the group was made up of Rylee Furr, Jennie Gentry, Lillie Griffin, Emily Hartsell, Baylor Howerton, Marie Jones, Katie Leonard, Darby Madewell, Missy Mueller and Ashley Pedersen. For the first time in many years, the performances were judged, with North Carolina bringing home the win for Best Sign-a-Song Performance.

The Evening of Excellence is also the time when the National Youth Ambassadors give their final speeches and pass their roles on to the new Ambassadors. It was a proud moment to see Brodi Olds giving his last speech as Ambassador, thanking those who supported him throughout his journey. Both Darby Madewell and Bennett Yeargan received First Runner-Up, making NC very proud. The new National Ambassadors are Asa Houchin of Ohio and Kennedy Gwin of Washington.

Just before the evening event, many of our youth attended the National GROW Club Banquet, where several of them received the National Grange Leadership Award. In a special ceremony at the banquet, Darby and Bennett were honorably inducted into the GROW Club. After 11 years of serving on the GROW Club Board of Directors, I stepped down from my position, ready to pass the torch. Our State Junior Director Emily Hartsell was elected to fill the seat on the board, representing the Southeast Region.

Twelve youth and young adults worked hard to prepare for the third annual National Grange Parliamentary Procedure Contest, which was held the Saturday morning of the convention. It was the first year that our state was able to have two teams compete in the contest, for which both teams traveled to Raleigh to practice in October. After a written test, live performance, and oral questions afterwards, Team 1 from NC claimed first place in the contest for the third consecutive year. This team was made up of Rylee Furr, Justin Leonard, Brodi Olds, Landon Woolard, Bennett Yeargan, and Darby Madewell, who served as president.

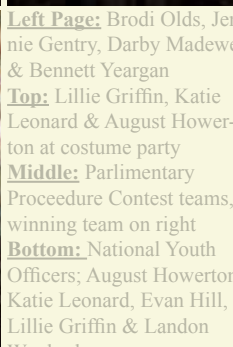
We were also excited that Team 2 from NC placed third in the contest. This team was made up of Evan Hill, Katie Leonard, Missy Mueller, Lillie Griffin, Marie Jones, and Ashley Pedersen, who served as president. New York’s team placed second in the contest. “These teams practiced hard and put a lot of work into the contest. They had to memorize their officer’s speaking parts, learn about different types of motions and study hard. It was amazing watching the contest and how professional these teams conducted their performances. I couldn’t have been more proud. Our very own Brodi Olds received an award for scoring the highest on the written test.

Saturday afternoon’s schedule at the convention included the 7th Degree, part of the national ritual. Seven NC youth took part in the presentation as Trumpet Girls, a special role in the degree. This was especially an honor this year for the 150th Anniversary. Those young ladies included Hannah Bright, Olivia Gentry, Zipporah Hayes, Baylor Howerton, Amber Long, Emma Stack and Caroline Vandaveer, who gave an outstanding performance.

We also cannot forget the incredible job that Justin Leonard and Josh Barfield did working the convention as Communications Fel-

lows. They gave speeches, wrote articles for the newsletter, aided with social media, and conducted interviews for Grange Radio. They worked hard to publicize the convention throughout the week.

Outside of the awards, honors and performances, this outstanding group of young people represented our state demonstrating professionalism, hard work, dedication to the Grange, and love for their Grange friendships. They supported each other through all activities and cheered each other on, which is part of what makes the Grange “family” so special.



Left Page: Brodi Olds, Jennie Gentry, Darby Madewell & Bennett Yeargan
Top: Lillie Griffin, Katie Leonard & August Howerton at costume party
Middle: Parliamentary Procedure Contest teams, winning team on right
Bottom: National Youth Officers; August Howerton, Katie Leonard, Evan Hill, Lillie Griffin & Landon Woolard



FROM JOYCE!

Joyce Clodfelter, Community Service & Family Living Director

Thank your NC Grange members for the wonderful support given to our state during national convention. We could not have made it without your support. The Hospitality day was a huge success and North Carolina should be proud. Everyone talked about all the cakes we provided and I thank you so much.

Thank you also for your support to the National community service project. You would not believe the shoes and socks that were collected. They even asked one state to donate their shoes locally because of the huge response that national had from all the states. That state alone had planned to bring over 700 pairs. We should feel proud that we are a very caring organization. A total of 1223 pairs of shoes were collected and on display (pictured) during the 150th National Grange Convention in Herndon, Virginia.


I look forward to seeing many of you at family conference in March at Carolina Beach. Since we are actually going to be involved with a community service project that weekend, we will not plan another project.

An early reminder to all Grange members that we are again supporting the pajamas and books program as our 2017 State Convention community service project. This year we will be supporting the Charlotte branch. I will send out additional information in the next Newsletter.

May each of you have a blessed and merry Christmas and a wonderful new year!

We received this sweet note from Sue Myers regarding the pajamas and books donated at our State Convention



 **Pajama Program**
Delivering Warm Sleepwear and Nurturing Books to Children in Need

NYC Reading Center & Headquarters
114 East 39th St., Ground Floor
New York, NY 10016-0958
212-716-9757
Fax 212-685-3723

Central/Eastern North Carolina
919-327-2440
sue@pajamaprogram.org

September 28, 2016

RECEIVED
OCT 6 2016

NC State Grange
1734 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625

Dear members of the NC State Grange,

Thank you so much for your donation of 530 pajamas and 650 books. This is such a fabulous help to us for the children! Every day we receive so many requests from shelters and group homes where children are in need of warm pajamas and new books that it seems like an overwhelming task we have taken on. Then, we receive help from people like you and within days we can send out boxes and boxes of new pajamas and books!

The pajamas and books we send to children help them to feel loved and comforted when they lie down to sleep at night. On their behalf, I again thank you personally for sharing your love with them.

Sincerely,

Sue Myers

Sue Myers
Chapter President - Central/Eastern NC Pajama Program
sue@pajamaprogram.org

The Pajama Program did not provide any goods or services concerning this gift.
Please retain this receipt for your tax purposes.

Troutman



Pictured: Allen Collins, Bill Galloway, Bill Ervin, James Mallory, Gene Honeycutt and Hugh Clontz.

On November 5, 2016, Troutman Grange #1292 honored approximately 45 Troutman Veterans and their spouses with a community breakfast, also attending was 5 members of the Troutman Fire Department. The breakfast was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Troutman. North Carolina State President, Jimmy Gentry welcomed the veterans and introduced guest speaker, local attorney and president of the Chamber of Commerce, James Mallory, Major General, USA (ret). There were 2 veterans representing WWII, Kernard Murdock and Bill Ervin. There were veterans representing Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Afganistan. Armed Forces represented were Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Troutman Grange continued with their "Words for Thirds" program this year. This is the 11th year we have participated in this program giving out approximately 1500 dictionaries to third graders at Troutman Elementary School. Students and teachers are excited to receive the new dictionaries.

Pictured front row: Caroline Pasley, Harrison Sherrill and Alden Bellman.

Back row: teacher Kammie Harris, Grangers Gloria Troutman, Kellee Payne and Leigh Payne



Troutman Grange #1292 recently presented art teacher, Allison Levis, at Troutman Elementary School with over 200 boxes of crayons, makers and colored pencils.



Pictured: Gloria Troutman, Kellee Payne, teacher Allison Levis and Leigh Payne.

LOCAL GRANGE SPOTLIGHT:

Schley



ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS
FIRST CHOICE FOR FAMILIES

Resolution In Recognition of Schley Grange Hall #710

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Education and the community it serves, strives to support and foster an appreciation for a lifetime of learning; and

WHEREAS, literacy in all its forms is intrinsically valued for its durability and benefits, and;

WHEREAS, no child should be deprived of the experience of owning and enjoying a book, and;

WHEREAS, Schley Grange has been a consistent and enduring partner in helping families throughout the Orange County Schools, and;

WHEREAS, Schley Grange has evidenced its commitment to the students and families of Orange County Schools through its annual donation of dictionaries to all third grade students within the Orange County Schools system, and;

WHEREAS, Schley Grange has kept its promise of fellowship and service to its members and the community;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Orange County Board of Education does hereby proclaim its appreciation for the tireless work and dedication of Schley Grange Hall #710 in ensuring that the gift of literacy and book ownership is a real and lasting constituent of the lives of students within the school system, and;

THEREFORE, the Orange County Board of Education proclaims that today is a fitting day for the families of the Orange County Schools system to thank Schley Grange for its support of the children of Orange County.

Dr. Stephen Halkiots, Chair
Orange County Board of Education

Dr. Todd Wirt, Superintendent
Orange County Schools



NORTH CAROLINA GRANGE
1734 WILKESBORO HWY
STATESVILLE, NC 28625
704-878-0000
NCGRANGE.COM

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March 3 - 5, 2016
Carolina Beach, NC

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