

GRANTHAM GRANGE #968

Minutes of the March 2024 Meeting

Date: March 25, 2024

Location: WoodmenLife Lodge
Grantham

The meeting was opened by President John Crawford and Vice President Roger Kornegay at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and Grange Salutation. Opening prayer was provided by Chaplain Sherwood Williford.

Speakers for the evening were introduced by Linda Crawford. Jessica Graham, FFA Advisor and teacher from Southern Wayne HS, spoke about the local FFA program and the opportunities the youth have as members. Also with Ms. Graham were three student FFA officers that provided personal insights on how the FFA has helped them prepare for their future. The students were Taylor Lee, Gyda Harrell and Toby Weeks. Students also learn about animal husbandry as they raise their own goats, care for, and show them at the local and State FFA events. The second speaker for the evening was Jessica Hamilton, originally from the Grantham community, who is now the 4H coordinator for Wayne County. Ms. Hamilton spoke about the benefits for children ages 5 to 19 in the 4H program where they learn life skills, citizenship and communications. The 4H provides opportunity for students to learn through participation in robotics, marksmanship, animal husbandry and their popular horse club.

In the business session, John gave a recap of the Grange Board of Directors meeting held on March 11th. One of the topics discussed was the Eastern NC Vintage Equipment club's upcoming show. They have asked if the Grantham Grange could assist in any way with volunteers, booths, donation items for the auction, etc. Terry Washum encouraged the Grange to help if possible and spread the word for good attendance. The Club is focusing on a more family friendly event this year with attractions for children and food booths. The event dates are May 3rd (set up), 4th and 5th. Mark Hood commented that proceeds earned from their auction go toward FFA awarding five \$1000 scholarships across Eastern NC three county region.

Also at the Board meeting, Sally Waddell commented the memorial donation was changed from \$25 to \$50 to be included in the sympathy card to the family member.

The Grange normally supports the Grantham Sports Association with a \$500 donation towards girls and boys softball program; however, this year they have already received sponsorship. Joyce Hood commented that we could purchase signage for the fence to

promote the Grange and use the balance towards ball equipment. Discussions were held to use this money toward sponsoring the fifty-two 4H youth in Wayne County. A motion was made by Joe Beaman to provide \$25 per 4H youth. Motion was amended to \$20 for a total of \$1040 donation toward the 4H program. Motion seconded by Julie Whitfield. Carried by membership. Glenn Kennedy commented that signage at the ballfield would be beneficial and also the Grange needs a sign in front of the Woodmen building. John has removed the Grange sign at the EMS building and it is being repainted. Glenn made a motion to purchase a sign for the ballfield at an estimated cost of \$200. Motion seconded by Linda Whitley and carried by the membership. Joyce will contact Jeremy Hooker with the Grantham Youth Sports Association.

Joyce thanked everyone for their generosity bringing items for the Ronald McDonald House. Donations will be taken to Greenville on Thursday, April 25th. Joyce also thanked Mark for making the life size cut out display of Ronald McDonald and Sally Waddell for painting it. Let Joyce know if you would like to go to Ronald McDonald House to take the goods.

The National convention is normally held in Charlotte. John commented that plans are for the convention to be a Grange cruise in November 2025. John encourage sign-up as soon as possible to due limited room availability. More information will be published on the Grange website in April.

Joyce mentioned that Grantham Grange normally sponsors youth to go to Grange camp; however, we have not had any additional Grantham youth going to camp other than Karly Denning. Karly is a State officer therefore she is sponsored by the State. Linda Whitley made a motion to send \$600 to the State Grange to sponsor two youth for Grange camp. Motion was seconded by Mark and carried by member vote.

John reminded members about the upcoming Awards Dinner in April and the Pastor Appreciation Dinner in May. The Awards dinner and Christmas dinner is normally a catered meal. Pastor Appreciation is normally a covered dish by the membership and meats are purchased. A motion was made by Roger for the Awards and Christmas events to be catered meals annually. The Pastor Appreciation will continue to be a covered dish by membership with additional meats purchased by the Grange. Motion was seconded by Joe. Also a motion was made by Joe to hold the events at 6:30 PM. Motion was seconded by Randy Coone and both motions were carried by membership.

Francis Jones commented that the Grange has donated previously to the 2 Wheelers 4 Tommy project by Krickets Kids. This is a sponsorship for bicycle donations. In October 2023, the Grange donated \$500 towards Krickets Kids for their Christmas project. Gary Grantham motioned to support 2 Wheelers 4 Tommy with a \$500 donation. Motion was seconded by Laura Hodges. Discussions held if the same recipients are in both 2 Wheelers and Christmas and also if this donation is in addition to a donation at Christmas. In a show of hands vote, the membership voted 27 For and 3 Against, therefore, motion was carried.

Sallie Stevens commented about a project by the Wounded Warrior organization where individuals send colorful stamps off of envelopes. These stamps are used for rehabilitation projects and hobby therapy. Karl Landgren also added that more information is available on-line under "Stamps For The Wounded". Sallie offered to collect and forward stamps donated by membership.

In other business, open comments were given about the Grange conference recently held in Atlantic Beach. Everyone that attended enjoyed the speakers as well as the location. Grantham Grange was well represented at this conference. Sally reminded members that the 2024 dues are needed. Robert Maples thanked everyone for the card and concerns with his recent knee replacement surgery. Terry Washum encouraged Grantham members to support the new Grange in Smithfield. Their meetings are held at the Agriculture Center on Hwy 210 in Smithfield. See Terry for more information.

The next meeting is the Awards Dinner scheduled for Monday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm to be held at Selah Christian Church.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sally Waddell, Grange Secretary