

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

Volume LVI

JUNE 2021

Number 6

## ***“Liberty Bills Passed, 2021 Session”***

**By Chris Gonthier**  
**BMAO Moral Action**

This will not be a complete listing of all the important bills that passed in the Oklahoma legislature this year. The bills mentioned here are important to our liberties. I will give a brief summary of them and the bill number so you can research anything you may need to know.

If you need help finding additional information call or text Bro Chris at 601-596-6875. If SB precedes a bill number, it originated in the Senate. If HB precedes it, it originated in the House.

SB106 Use SDA license for purchases (basically duplicates HB1630). This would allow, but not mandate a FFL to use your conceal carry license instead of making that phone call when purchasing firearms. You would still have to fill out the normal paperwork. Goes into effect in November. There are a few things still to be resolved with the ATF.

SB368 Religious institutions cannot be declared nonessential. This bill has an emergency clause meaning that it is effective immediately upon the governor signing.

HB2648 was a similar bill, but it does not have the emergency clause. It will go into effect the first of November. This means that no government agency in the state of Oklahoma can close places of worship during a declared emergency. Churches can decide for themselves whether they wish to remain open.

SB631 2A Sanctuary (with cutoff at 1968 GCA) with emergency clause therefore effective immediately. Unconstitutional

federal gun control laws will not be enforced by any state, county, or local law enforcement. 1968 is the cutoff for the federal laws. No, it does not mean you can have fully automatic weapons without being licensed. You must still have a background check, or in November use the SDA if applicable.

SB646 Carry into restaurants and bars if not drinking. You cannot legally carry a firearm in the state of Oklahoma while consuming alcohol. This is for certain restaurants that serve alcohol you would still be allowed to carry your firearm in that establishment if the property owner allows it.

Hopefully, none of our readers frequent bars, which would be a separate moral issue.

SB658 Addresses mask and vaccine requirements in Education. This will be effective for the fall semester. It would place the decision to be vaccinated, or wear masks, in the hands of the parent. Schools could not mandate. There are some exceptions for Higher education and to fully understand this you would need to read the bill.

SB672 Will allow you to carry a chamber loaded long gun in your vehicle. This is currently illegal... effective date is November. SB839 Game Warden needs permission to place a camera on your property. Currently they can do so without your knowledge or permission. Effective date is in November.

SB926 BB gun bill allows you to shoot

air projectiles even in the city, so long as they do not exceed 400 fps and the projectile stays on the property...Effective date is November.

HB1236 is a very important bill. States not only have the right, but the responsibility to protect citizens' rights. This is an important step in protecting the citizens of Oklahoma from the overreach of the federal government.

Remember, there are certain rights given to us not by the government, but by God. Therefore government cannot take them away. This is effective immediately.

HB1674 Driver escaping a crowd unlawfully blocking road/vehicle. You will not be able to just run people over at will. It must be a group such as rioters or looters, and you must also be in danger or feel threatened. This would protect from criminal prosecution and civil suits. Also, those involved would be responsible for damages to the vehicle. This becomes effective in November.

HB1775 Will prohibit Critical Race Theory from being taught in our schools. You cannot teach one race, gender...etc. is superior over others. History can still be taught, but you cannot teach all of one race is evil, all of another is good. This will help prevent forced indoctrination of our students.

Racism is hatred, and Critical Race Theory is racist. There has been misinformation about this bill, so if my report upsets you, I encourage more study. It will be effective for the fall semester.

HB2645 Omni-Lite, gun rights in public venues is another extremely important bill. It helped clear up language in other laws. One really important feature is the restrictions it places on venues from removing our second amendment right. Remember, there are places that we were not able to currently carry. In order for a venue, that is on public property where you normally would be allowed to carry a firearm, they would have to meet certain criteria to deny your entry while carrying a

***(“Liberty Bills Passed,” cont on pg 6)***

# BMA of OK Church News

## Missionary Baptist Church Lindsay

Praising GOD for the many blessings. The pastor completed his physical therapy and was released by the orthopedic specialist. He was able to stand to preach on Mother's Day for the first time in twelve weeks.

Our attendance has seen some improvement. We continue our efforts in making outreach.

The pastor conducted a memorial service on Saturday, May 8, 2021 which was a direct result of outreach.

Our Wednesday night Bible study in the pastor's home is progressing well through the book of 1 Thessalonians.

Our Spanish service attendance remains steady. We have made some contacts with other Spanish speaking families within the community, who have expressed interest.

Please continue to lift Missionary Baptist Church Lindsay, OK up in your prayers. Over half of the population is unchurched, yet, have little or no interest in spiritual matters.

Please pray that our continued efforts in

outreach produce a great harvest of souls.

We join our fellow churches in praying for souls to be reached, find the forgiveness, grace, and mercy offered by JESUS, be baptized, discipled, and matured as reproducing believers.

Oklahoma and the rest of the nation are in great need of revival. This is evidenced when reviewing the data in the BMMA Handbook.

Churches are not reaching people with the life changing Gospel. Among the 1,250 member churches affiliated

with the BMA of America, over one third did not report any statistics.

Several associations across the nation did not report any baptisms among their member churches. I hear people blame it on apostasy.

Is it apostasy or is it laziness on our part, refusing to fulfill the Great Commission?

Is it the influence of the world upon the churches, rather than the church influencing the world?

Is it placing ideologies and philosophies above the powerful, living, life changing WORD of GOD?

In Christ Service,

**Thomas Dickerson, Pastor**

## The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

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**2021**  
**SUMMER KIDS CAMP**  
June 28 - July 2  
@ Cedar Hills Youth Camp  
\*1st - 7th Grade

**\$120**  
6th - 7th will  
have an older  
programming  
track!

"The Lord  
is my  
Shepherd..."  
Psalm 23

For more  
information  
405.764.6646  
(Doug, Noah, Jody,  
or Sarah)

\* 1st - 7th refers to  
completers of each grade.

# *"I Was Just Thinkin' "*

By Narita Roady

## *"Why Are You Here?"*

Ralph and Ethel were taking a drive in their new car. As they rounded a corner, Ethel said, "I guess you know, Ralph, if it wasn't for all the money Dad left me, chances are we would not have this fabulous new car."

Ralph continued to driving, acting as if she hadn't said a word.

After a while they turned up their scenic drive and in front of their enormous new home. They sat in silence looking at their beautiful house, and Ethel spoke again.

"I hope you realize, Ralph, that if my father hadn't been such a wealthy man I doubt we'd have this impressive new house."

Once more, Ralph gave no indication he heard her comment.

They got out of the car and walked into their living room with the all its striking new furniture. Yet another time Ethel commented, "Ralph, surely you recognize the fact if it weren't for all my money, we wouldn't have this stylish room filled with the latest furniture and expensive carpet.

For a third time Ralph did not acknowledge her remark.

He walked into their new den, sat down on their oversized leather sofa and turned on the 52 inch screen television. For a fourth time Ethel leaned over and noted, "Without all my wealth, Ralph, we wouldn't have this enormous television and costly couch."

This time Ralph had reached his limit. He slowly turned to face Ethel and said, "You know sweetie, I don't want to hurt you, but if it weren't for all your money, I doubt you'd have me either!"

Stop and think, "Why are you a church member? What keeps you faithful to

services and serving in your church? What motivates you?"

It's good if you are active and committed, but the "WHY" behind your dedication is even more important than all you do.

Attending worship faithfully is a heart matter, because what's in your heart is what matters to God. I think it would be wise from time to time for each of us to check our heart's motive for attending church, to make sure we are there for the right reason.

There are several wrong reason people attend church. Do any of these apply to you?

### **Some people attend church out of guilt**

There is unrepentant sin in their life. Maybe consciously or unconsciously they are trying to bargain with God. Instead of asking forgiveness and turning away from their sins, they attend services "make right" a week of godless living. This doesn't pacify the Lord, He wants the real thing.

"For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."  
Psalm 51:16-17

### **Others come because of status**

It looks good to others to be in church. In the community they are afforded a certain amount of instant credibility because of their involvement in a local church. God sees right through this of course. Besides, HIS approval is what we should be seeking not that of man.

"For they loved the praise of men

more than the praise of God."  
John 12:43

### **Then there are those who come out of obligation**

They hold an office in the church or teach a class. That is their sole reason for being faithful. How many times has a person been replaced with a new teacher or worker and just quit attending church? Their commitment was to their position, not the Lord.

Yet you do have to give them credit. It is better than those entrusted with a place of service yet do not fulfill the honor that has been bestowed upon them. Doing our job out of affection will give us great joy and blessings but serving simply out of duty will strain, drain, and leave us empty.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

### **And what about Christians who stay in church because of habit?**

They are the walking spiritually dead. They have always done it so they go without thinking. Spiritual growth has long ceased, contributing to the church's ministries through involvement is a thing of the past, so now they show up and leave much like the little bird in a cuckoo clock that appears at the appointed times.

They add nothing to the church except a warm body during services.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

### **Last of all consider the people who are in church out of selfishness**

They are the "shopping" Christians, coming to "pick up" what they need, and then leave. They come for such items as socialization with friends, recognition for even the smallest efforts and entertainment (but not teaching or conviction). It is a MUST that they "feel"

*("Why Are You Here?" cont on pg 7*



# Latest CBC News



# CENTRAL

BAPTIST COLLEGE

## Summer Sessions 2021

Central Baptist College will offer online courses for two five-week sessions and one ten-week session for Summer 2021. The registration and payment deadline for the five-week Summer 1 session and ten-week Summer three sessions has already passed, but there is still time to register the five-week Summer 2 session.

The registration and payment deadline for the Summer two session is June 21 with classes beginning June 28 and ending July 29.

Summer courses are available for both current and non-current CBC students.

A schedule of courses, tuition and fees, and payment information can be found at [cbc.edu/summersessions](http://cbc.edu/summersessions).

## Fall 2021 Information for New Students

For traditional high school students and college transfer students now is the time to apply for Fall 2021! Scholarships and on campus housing are still available but are limited and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

To schedule an in person Personal Campus Visit Experience, go to [cbc.edu/visit](http://cbc.edu/visit).

Students can also make a virtual campus visit or schedule a virtual meeting with a Personal Admissions Officer on that website.

Once new students complete the easy application process which includes applying for admission, submitting transcripts and test scores, and

completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), each student will receive a scholarship award package as long as funds are available.

Begin the admissions process at [cbc.edu/apply](http://cbc.edu/apply). Contact Admissions at [admissions@cbc.edu](mailto:admissions@cbc.edu) or 501.329.6873 with any questions.

Students completing the admissions process will be invited to attend a virtual Connect Day this summer to complete orientation activities in advance of the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester.

## PACE Program Now Enrolling

The PACE Program was designed with adults needing a convenient and

flexible college option in mind. The PACE Program makes college possible for those with work and family obligations. BMAA missionaries Bryan and Pamela Risner recently began college coursework through the CBC PACE Program from their home in Romania.

As an online student, you can work from anywhere – all you need is a computer, reliable internet connection, and basic computer skills.

The next application deadline to enroll for the fall semester in the PACE Program is Friday, June 11th. Classes begin July 6th and are offered in-class, online or in a hybrid option.

With eight enrollment periods per year and 5-week courses, busy working adults always have an opportunity to get started. Take advantage of our \$500 BMAA Grant that applies for all students who attend a BMAA church, the Ministry Tuition Grant, student referral grant, or the Veterans Tuition Grant.

Visit [cbc.edu/online](http://cbc.edu/online) to apply and learn what PACE can do for you. If you have questions, contact the Admissions Office at [pace@cbc.edu](mailto:pace@cbc.edu) or 501.329.6873.

(“Central Baptist College,” cont on pg 5)



BMAA Missionaries to Romania, Bryan and Pamela Risner

# "Central Baptist College," cont from pg 4

## Central Baptist College Rotaract Club Relaunches

The 2020-2021 academic year has been a productive one as the Central Baptist College Rotaract Club relaunched under the direction of Advisor Dr. Kateryna Pitchford.

Through Rotaract clubs, young people ages 18 and older develop leadership and professional skills, exchange ideas with community leaders, and have fun through service. Membership in the CBC Rotaract Club is limited to currently enrolled students at Central Baptist College.

This year the CBC Rotaract Club held four meetings and participated in two community service projects. The first project, Operation Christmas Child, was held in November 2020.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse and is sponsored

locally by Conway Fellowship Bible Church.

The second service project was with Life Choices. Life Choices is a local pregnancy resource center, and the Rotaract Club volunteered for their annual Spring Soirée fundraising event on April 19-20.

"It has been a pleasure to serve as the CBC Rotaract Advisor," said Dr. Pitchford.

"We have 15 great members who were very active in reestablishing the club this year and serving others in our community. They came up with community service projects and had a strong will and dedication in implementing them."

"I am looking forward to the next year with this group of outstanding students and, of course, new students!"

CBC Rotaract Club officers for 2020-2021 are President Brianna Irons, Secretary Lena Srdanov, Service Projects Chair Channing Mitchell, and Public Image Chair Colten Wiley.

Club members are Marcela Bueno, Madison Cox, Ashleigh Daugherty,

Abby Gresham, Alexandria Irons, Josie Jones, Andrew Krisell, Austen Krisell, Jordan Moore, Kelsie Moore, and Jaclyn Smith.

Dr. Kateryna Pitchford is an Associate Professor of Business at Central Baptist College, serves as the CBC Rotaract Advisor, and is a member of the Conway Noon Rotary Club.

The CBC Rotaract Club is sponsored by the Conway Noon Rotary Club.

## Bobby Wilkey Retires from Central Baptist College After 39 years of service

Following 39 years of service to Central Baptist College, Bobby Wilkey officially retired on August 14, 2020.

Due to COVID restrictions in place at the time, a celebration could not be planned. A retirement reception honoring Bobby Wilkey was scheduled for Saturday, May 8.

This come and go reception will took place in the Childers Dining Hall located in the Mabee Student Services Complex on the CBC campus from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Remarks were made at 5:00pm.

## Grace Harbor News

It has been an eventful month personally as my wife and I welcomed our sixth child into the world. Charlotte Elizabeth was born on May 6 at Mercy Hospital in OKC. Mom and baby are both doing great, and "Charlee" is dearly loved by her five older siblings.

Over the next week, Grace Harbor will finally be getting back into the normal Summer swing of things with hosting a block party and gathering in a local park. Due to COVID-19 last year, we were prevented from hosting events of this nature, but we are determined to be back at the April as a blessing to our community.

Before this event on June , our community groups will be gathering together in the park on June 2 for prayer for this event and fellowship.

We are praying now that we have an opportunity to pray with and share the Gospel with several neighbors at this event.





# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

## "Adventures on Ice"

The roads were bad, but the trip was necessary. I needed to go to Stratford, and although travel advisories were out, I would be careful. My wife dutifully told me, as I was leaving, "be careful."

I jokingly said, "No, I think I'll be careless." We both laughed and I left. I got set to go and put in the beautiful Ray Boltz CD "Allegiance," and I cautiously headed for Stratford.

The Interstate was clear and also Highway 177 through Shawnee and Tecumseh. However, as I continued on south from Tecumseh, I noted the roads hadn't been salted, but it appeared the tracks were clear.

I was driving about 55 mph when I came up behind a car traveling at 40 mph. I just thought he was being unduly cautious as I started to pull out to pass.

Suddenly, the rear of my pickup broke loose and started to swing around on me. I immediately got off the gas, turned into the slide and brought it under control. However, I thought, you know, 40 mph isn't really a bad speed.

So I dropped back in like, like a good little boy, and followed him at 40 mph the rest of the way. There was no further trouble, except for a slight bobble every once in awhile.

By this time I had heard Ray Boltz sing his songs through several times, and although I enjoy that, I decided to listen to something else. Ah, yes, Johnny Cash would be good.

Everything was under control as good ole Johnny belted out "Ring of Fire." I was still behind the other car and driving 40 mph and he was having not trouble, so I was enjoying the view and the leisurely trip.

As I came up the hill for the turn-off for a place called Romulus, I once again

puzzled about meaning of that name. It reminded me of the Romulans in the old Star Trek shows.

That was what I was thinking when I was suddenly jolted back to reality as the rear of the pickup suddenly broke loose and I found myself in a full-fledged spin-out.

I did everything I was supposed to do, but soon was going sideways off the pavement and down a sloping embankment.

I came to a stop without hitting anything. However, it was a rather steep embankment.

I had no weight in the rear of the pickup and only two-wheel drive, so I couldn't get the traction needed to go up the embankment to continue south. The embankment had a more gently slope to the north. I thought, well, I guess I'll just go north and go back home.



When I got the front wheels up on the pavement, I gave it more gas and suddenly the rear came spinning around on me and put me up on the pavement and facing south again. "Thank you Lord, and okay! Since You headed me that way, I guess I'll just go on to Stratford!"

So, that's what I did.

Which spiritual application would you like to hear on this incident?

How about "Only listen to Christian music?" No?

How about judging the situation by surface appearances? (It looked clear.)

How about tempting God by putting ourselves at risk in spite of warnings? (Traffic advisories.)

How about plunging ahead after God's warnings? (One near spin-out and several bobbles.)

Personally, I think the most important application in this incident is God's constant watching over us.

Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about those who fear Him, and delivereth them."

God surely had delivered me many times.

## "Liberty Bills Passed" cont from pg 1

firearm.

First, the entire venue must be surrounded by an eight-foot fence (of specific design).

Second, there must be walk through metal detectors at each entrance.

Third, an officer that is commissioned in the state of Oklahoma must be manning the walk-through detectors. If any of these three conditions are not met, they cannot legally deny entry to conceal carry. This carried an emergency clause and is already effective.

Finally, HB2774 ICE cooperation/

support will require law enforcement to cooperate in the matter of removal of illegals. This is to prohibit sanctuary cities, counties...etc. from not allowing law enforcement to do their job as pertaining to immigrants. Also, law enforcement would be required to cooperate.

Understand that neither the author of this article, nor the editor of this paper are attorneys. This paper is not a legal journal and should not be relied on as such. We are only introducing this legislation to you.

Do your own research and consult with your attorney on the application of these new laws. We are not giving legal advice.

# New Generation Recovering After Hail Storm

## Steve & Lynn Puckett, Representing Christ in Norman Oklahoma

We are continuing in our efforts to reach the lost and minister to those who are spiritually sick not only in Norman, but elsewhere also. We ask for your continuance in support both financially and prayerfully. We thank you for this support.

We had a horrible hail storm which did much damage to the building, and also to the church van. In fact, it totaled the van. The church building is covered by insurance and we expect that to be taken care of. However, we know that the Lord will supply all of our needs. Our attendance continues to improve as more people become more comfortable in returning to some semblance of normality.

A big shout out to Bro. Anthony Pennington, who attended the recent Evangelism Explosion training that we hosted at our church. It's always an encouragement when we are able to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we endeavor to serve our Lord.

Speaking of fellowship and training, I would like to have a "discipleship training camp" sometime in the future. If you think that you would be interested in something like that just let me know. I'm thinking it would be something like a retreat at a camp. I have no details at this point in time. We are just in the planning stages.

### Below is information from Chris' monthly report:

Greetings to you from NGBC in Norman, OK! We have several developments to report. First of all, if you would please continue to keep brother Steve and Lynn in your prayers. He has had several doctors' visits and scans and is still prayerfully considering the path forward for treatment of his prostate cancer. We are praying and believing for total and complete healing, in Jesus' name!!

Secondly, we praise God for a successful Evangelism Explosion (EE) Leadership clinic hosted last week at our church building! Attending were ten churches from throughout the state of Oklahoma that participated in evangelism and discipleship training (with more individuals and churches participating than expected, Glory to God!!) We are excited to not only equip other churches with EE tools, but continue to "practice what we preach" by implementing both EE evangelism and discipleship classes beginning this week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for at least seven individuals in our church, most of which have expressed interest in attending both classes!

Lastly, we are excited to share the news about Lee, a woman from Taiwan who comes from a Buddhist background and had never attended church before ours. Steve and Lynn have had the opportunity to become acquainted with Lee at Mission Norman over the years, but just over three weeks ago she decided that she wanted to start attending our church and hear the teaching of the word of God! Lee has been attending church with us every week and frequently calls me with very thoughtful questions about God and the bible. She really seems to be enjoying our church and shared with us that she has met many Christians but never found any that have been as loving towards her as we have! We thank God that Lee has experienced the love of Christ through our church!

We also thank you for your continued prayers and support of our work here at NGBC, and ask that you would continue to pray for us, that we will see a great spiritual harvest of new believers in Jesus this year through the multiplication of disciples and churches who are committed to soul winning and disciple-making, in fulfillment of the plan of our LORD Jesus! Amen!

## "Why Are You Here?"

continued from pg 3

good after being in service

As a "patron" others must display "the customer is always right" attitude, never opposing their opinions or ideas, and. They are quick to find fault with the church but rarely see the good. Once the church ceases to provide what they want, they quickly leave and patronize another "church store".

You have to make a choice; it's either God or you.

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13

So what should the motive be behind our being in church? Actually there are three.

### A love of God and love of others.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment".

Mark 12:30

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him."

1 John 5:1

### Gratitude for all He has done for us.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

### Devotion to the Lord.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

The Lord's church is so important to Him that Christ gave His life for it. Shouldn't it be that important to you too?



# Daniel Springs Camp Camps & Retreats

DanielSpringsCamp.com • 903-685-2433 • info@DanielSpringsCamp.com

## 2021 Daniel Springs Camp Summer Schedule

Event	Worship / Speaker	Date
Pre-Teen Camp 1	3rd thru 8th grade	June 23-26
Combo Camp 1	2 Amazing Camps - 4 amazing days Pre-teen Camp - 3rd thru 6th grade Student Camp - 6th grade thru college	June 27-30
Combo Camp 2	2 Amazing Camps - 4 amazing days Pre-teen Camp - 3rd thru 6th grade Student Camp - 6th grade thru college	June 30-July 3
Pre-Teen Camp 2	3rd thru 6th grade	July 14-17
Ark-La-Tex Camp 1	Church Family Camp - All ages	July 18-21
Ark-La-Tex Camp 2	Church Family Camp - All ages	July 21-24
Student Camp 1	6th grade thru college	July 25-28



## Daniel Springs is also available for Retreats & Rentals

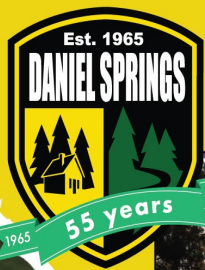
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- Birthday parties
- Weddings
- Corporate events
- Community events
- Field trips
- Church groups
- Bible study groups
- College groups
- School events
- Groups parties
- Crafting event
- Team building
- Tournaments
- Recreational activities

DANIEL SPRINGS CAMP

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Superstars Kids Camp**  
Camp Cedar Hills  
Binger, OK  
June 28-July 2  
See pg 2

**SOAR**  
BMA Youth Conference  
Hotel Anatole, Dallas, TX  
July 6-8, 2021

**BMAA**  
National Meeting  
August 2-4, 2021  
Waxahachie, TX