

PA STATE GRANGE Resolutions



146th Annual Session

October 19 – 21, 2018

Cranberry Twp., PA

1 **AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

2
3 **Resolution #1 – Food Stamps to be Used for Nutritional Food Items only**
4 **North Jackson Grange #1740**
5 **Lebanon County Pomona Grange #59**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the **Food Stamp program** is to "*Help to Provide Nutritional Foods*
8 *for Needy Families*"; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Soda/Soft Drink, Energy Drinks or Candy, contain *little or no*
10 *nutritional value*. Therefore, be it

11
12 **RESOLVED**, that the Grange encourage the USDA that **Food Stamps** can only
13 be used to Purchase Nutritional Foods.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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19 **Resolution #2 – Environmental and Endangered Species Laws**
20 **Pleasant Valley Grange #1643**
21 **Mercer County Pomona Grange #25**

22
23 **WHEREAS**, environmental and endangered species laws are being used to
24 disrupt agriculture and natural resource use beyond the intended purpose of
25 those laws. Therefore, be it

26
27 **RESOLVED**, that the grange recognize the unique role agriculture and the
28 livestock industries play in land and environmental management and advocate
29 for greater flexibility in environmental laws interpretation to allow for historic
30 land uses varying environments and situations across the country.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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1 **Resolution #3 – Cell Cultured Protein Products**
 2 **Pleasant Valley Grange #1643**
 3 **Mercer County Pomona Grange #25**

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, cell cultured protein products that purport to be meat are emerging;
 6 and
 7 **WHEREAS**, the Food and Drug Administration has indicated they will assert
 8 jurisdiction as the primary regulator of those products; and
 9 **WHEREAS**, that the USDA is uniquely positioned to insure all meat and poultry
 10 products are held to the same rigorous food safety and labeling standards.
 11 Therefore, be it

12
 13 **RESOLVED**, the USDA be named the primary regulator, including cell cultured
 14 protein products, to insure they are held to the same rigorous food safety and
 15 labeling standards.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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21 **Resolution #4 –Cell Cultured Protein Product Identification**
 22 **Agriculture & Environmental Committee**

23
 24 **WHEREAS**, cell cultured protein products are being produced by laboratories;
 25 and
 26 **WHEREAS**, corporate interests may try to market these products using terms
 27 “Meat and poultry”; and
 28 **WHEREAS**, meat comes from living animal species and there cannot be test
 29 tube meat or poultry. Therefore, be it

30
 31 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange support legislation that opposes
 32 any effort to label cell cultured protein products as “meat or poultry.”

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #5 – Resolution on High Tunnel Structures**
 2 **Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee**

3
 4 **WHEREAS**, high tunnels are structures used for agriculture purposes such as,
 5 enabling farmers to extend growing seasons and provide temporary animal
 6 shelter; and

7 **WHEREAS**, these structures are considered a normal practice in some types of
 8 farming operations; and

9 **WHEREAS**, they are an investment which is less expensive to build and are
 10 temporary. Therefore, be it

11
 12 **RESOLVED** that Pennsylvania State Grange opposes any Regulation by
 13 municipalities to restrict construction of temporary tunnel structures and to
 14 exempt them from storm water management consistent with Act 15-2018.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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21 **Resolution #6 – Misuse of the term “Milk”**
 22 **California Grange #941**

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 24 **WHEREAS**, beverages have been appearing next to the milk in grocery stores;
 25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, some are using the term “milk” in their name, but are not a product
 27 of a mammal; and

28 **WHEREAS**, this is misleading the public into thinking these products are
 29 satisfactory alternatives for milk. Therefore, be it

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31 **RESOLVED** that the National Grange support legislation that forbids any product
 32 not secreted from the mammary gland of a mammal from using the term “milk”.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE				X	
DELEGATES				X	

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1 **Resolution #7 – Expediting Agriculture DEP Permitting**
2 **Berks County Pomona #43**

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4 **WHEREAS**, agriculture permitting has become cumbersome, very expensive,
5 and time-consuming; and

6 **WHEREAS**, DEP is the permitting agent and relies on the soil conservation and
7 N.R.C.S. to do the legwork for the DEP to grant a permit; and

8 **WHEREAS**, DEP is usually overwhelmed with many other issues in today’s world.
9 Therefore, be it

10
11 **RESOLVED** that any farm operation needing a permit to improve or build on
12 their operation apply to N.R.C.S.; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED** that the N.R.C.S. and the local soil conservation prepare and
14 document needed requirements and improvements in preparation of submitting
15 to DEP; and be it further

16 **RESOLVED**, that during the process the N.R.C.S. have the opportunity to
17 contact DEP with any technical questions and also secure an appointment in the
18 schedule of DEP in a timely manner.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #8 – Eminent Domain and Farmland Preservation**
 2 **Agriculture & Environmental Issues Committee**

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 4 **WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania is the Nation’s leader in preserving farmland with well
 5 over one-half million farm acres protected; and

6 **WHEREAS**, this success is compromised when pipeline construction, power line
 7 or other construction is permitted in protected farmland areas through eminent
 8 domain; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the interest of farmland preservation is virtually ignored by eminent
 10 domain projects and development which may be targeting farmland with
 11 purpose; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the eminent domain is designed to serve a public purpose and not to
 13 further narrow corporate interests; and

14 **WHEREAS**, such construction and projects hurt farmer property owners due to
 15 property seizure, environmental affects and hardened soil which makes it difficult
 16 to farm, thus hurting the preserved farm’s ability to continue being viable.

17 Therefore, be it

18
 19 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange advocate prohibition of natural
 20 gas pipeline, power line and commercial construction encroachment and granting
 21 of rights of way for construction on preserved farmland in Pennsylvania.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

Resolution #9 — Tax Preparers Held Accountable Lancaster County Pomona Grange #71

WHEREAS, personal information used in preparing tax returns; and
WHEREAS, Federal and state laws protect information such as Social Security numbers and financial information from being accessible to others who should not be entitled to this information; and
WHEREAS, unauthorized access can lead to personal harm for the individual, family, and business owner; and
WHEREAS, there is anecdotal evidence that some tax preparers may not be taking adequate safeguards to protect confidential information in their custody. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that tax preparers should be vigilant of their obligation to comply with privacy standards of Gamm-Leach-Blilley Act of 1999, privacy rules of the Federal Trade Commission, relevant provisions of Pennsylvania privacy laws and regulations by accounting trade associations.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

1 **Resolution #10 – Ballot Questions**
 2 **Lancaster County Pomona Grange #71**
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4 **WHEREAS**, voter turnout in November 2017 was only 25 percent of the
 5 registered voters; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there was an important amendment on the ballot dealing with the
 7 residential property tax; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the wording was confusing, hard to understand, and may discourage
 9 future voting. Therefore, be it
 10

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange advocate that amendments to
 12 the Pennsylvania Constitution be clearly written; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania prepare an explanation of
 14 the amendment reviewed by a citizen’s task force formed for this purpose only
 15 which shall include rural and urban voters reflecting an income and educational
 16 cross section of the voters; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that all state agencies include a copy of this explanation in
 18 newsletters, flyers, issuance of licenses and other communications to the public
 19 in the three months before the proposed amendment appears on the ballot.
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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #11 — Pennsylvania State Public School Testing Window**
 2 **Hookstown Grange #1980**

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 4 **WHEREAS**, the scheduling of the school year in the Commonwealth of
 5 Pennsylvania has been driven over the years by the PSSA or Keystone testing
 6 window established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education; and
 7 **WHEREAS**, the testing window being set in March or April has driven schools to
 8 feel great pressure to begin the school year earlier and earlier in August to provide
 9 more time for instruction before the state test; and
 10 **WHEREAS**, once the testing is completed each year, the climax of major learning
 11 for students has been reached, and therefore, the desire to learn has lessened at
 12 that point in the school year; and
 13 **WHEREAS**, the testing window may be placed later in the school year and still give
 14 time for results to be distributed to the districts prior to or very early in the new
 15 school year. Therefore, be it

16
 17 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange recommend to the
 18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the Public School Testing window be
 19 scheduled no earlier than May 1 of each school year.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

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 23 **Resolution #12 — Bigger Truck Trailers**
 24 **Berks County Pomona #43**

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 26 **WHEREAS**, there is a movement to amend Title 75 (vehicles) of the
 27 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the allowable width of truck
 28 trailers from 96 inches to 102 inches; and
 29 **WHEREAS**, SB880/P.N. 1138 is currently before the Senate transportation
 30 committee to allow the width to change. Therefore, be it

31
 32 **RESOLVED**, that Berks County Pomona Grange opposes any change in width to
 33 tractor trailers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due to narrow township
 34 roads and safety concerns.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

1 **Resolution #13 – Start of Pennsylvania School Year**
2 **Hookstown Grange #1980**

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4 **WHEREAS**, the scheduling of the Pennsylvania public school year, requiring a
5 certain number of days be completed by each school district, is capable of being
6 accomplished between Labor Day and mid-June each year, even with snow days
7 and holiday breaks included; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the field of agriculture is the third leading industry in the state and,
9 therefore should receive its due consideration; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the fair season in the state of Pennsylvania is primarily over by
11 Labor Day each year; and

12 **WHEREAS**, youth, such as 4-H and FFA members, must make the choice to
13 either not participate in their local fair or miss school to show their animal
14 projects at the fair; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the stifling heat of late August and early September make it difficult
16 for students to remain engaged in their lessons during the school day, compared
17 to the less dramatic temperatures of June. Therefore, be it

18
19 **RESOLVED**, the Pennsylvania State Grange propose to the Pennsylvania State
20 Legislature that they pass a bill to make a law for all schools in the
21 Commonwealth to have their first day for students be no earlier than the day
22 after Labor Day each year.

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COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

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1 **Resolution #14 – Right to Repair**
 2 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

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 4 **WHEREAS**, items ranging from cellphones to farm equipment come with
 5 operation manuals that are intended only for basic everyday operations; and
 6 **WHEREAS**, serious situations requiring repairs beyond everyday maintenance
 7 can require extensive and complicated procedures that should only be performed
 8 by certified specialists who have been sufficiently trained to do those repairs and
 9 updates; and

10 **WHEREAS**, manufacturers administer specialized training to certify technicians
 11 to enable them to accurately diagnose and to properly repair and restore the
 12 equipment to correct working order; and

13 **WHEREAS**, consumers who attempt to perform complicated repairs on such
 14 equipment risk permanent damage to the equipment, voiding the warranty; and
 15 most importantly risking personal injury or death; and

16 **WHEREAS**, any unauthorized alteration to equipment that disables safety
 17 switches, alters horsepower, or otherwise changes the original operation of the
 18 equipment can lead to personal injury or death; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Right-to-Repair legislation would require manufacturers to make
 20 instructions and tools available to members of the general public with no regard
 21 to a person’s training in maintenance or repair to specific equipment , or lack
 22 thereof. Therefore, be it

23
 24 **RESOLVED**, that based on the need for protection from personal injury or death,
 25 damage to equipment, and the liability of the manufacturers and equipment
 26 dealers, the Pennsylvania State Grange strongly oppose the concept of a Right-
 27 to-Repair Bill; and be it further

28 **RESOLVED**, If the individual is qualified with proper knowledge and testing
 29 equipment, service manuals and signs a release acknowledging that it will void
 30 the warranty, they would be exempt from any Right to Repair law.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES			X		

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1 **Resolution #15 — Need for Open Primary Elections**
 2 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

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 4 **WHEREAS**, a Primary Election is the vehicle by which voters nominate
 5 candidates from among persons who have declared interest in filling a position;
 6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, there are two types of Primary Elections that can accomplish this: a
 8 Closed Primary Election or an Open Primary Election. In a closed Primary
 9 Election, a voter can only vote for a candidate from the party in which they are a
 10 registered voter; while in an opened Primary Election, any registered voter can
 11 vote for any candidate in either party regardless of their registration or
 12 affiliation;

13 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is one of less than a dozen
 14 states/commonwealths that operate a Closed Primary Election system to
 15 nominate candidates for political office in General Elections; and

16 **WHEREAS**, by permitting only voters who are registered voters of the
 17 Democratic or Republican Parties to vote; voters of who are not registered
 18 members of one of these two main parties are rendered voiceless in the process
 19 of selecting political candidates; and

20 **WHEREAS**, an Open Primary Election, with few exceptions, would allow any/all
 21 registered voters to vote in the Primary Election of their choice; and

22 **WHEREAS**, an Open Primary Election would increase voter participation by
 23 allowing all registered voters to vote, resulting in a more complete
 24 representation of the entire electorate regardless of their political affiliation.
 25 Therefore, be it

26
 27 **RESOLVED**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania replace Closed Primary
 28 Elections with Open Primary Elections, thus allowing all registered voters to
 29 exercise their right to vote in the selection of political candidates.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #16 -- Loud Fireworks**
2 **Goshen Grange #121, Chester County**

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4 Whereas, loud fireworks can be disturbing and stressful to individuals with PTSD,
5 combat experience, young children, older adults, individuals with special needs,
6 and all types of animals (birds, wildlife, livestock and pets); and
7

8 Whereas, loud fireworks can lead to hearing loss with 120 decibels recognized as
9 the pain threshold for loud, sharp sounds and fireworks being typically above 150
10 decibels; and
11

12 Whereas, Pennsylvania passed House Bill 542 on October 30, 2017, expanding
13 the type and size of fireworks available for purchase by adults residing in
14 Pennsylvania which has resulted in many more fireworks being set off in small
15 towns and neighborhoods on random nights and times; and
16

17 Whereas, the technology to produce quieter fireworks exists and is routinely used
18 in larger fireworks displays along with the larger rocket explosions, and other
19 technology also exists for alternatives to fireworks such as drone displays or
20 laser shows. Therefore, be it
21

22 **RESOLVED**, that Pennsylvania State Grange urge that the Pennsylvania
23 Legislative Budget & Finance Committee study policy options regarding use and
24 restrictions of loud fireworks; and be it further

25 **RESOLVED**; That this study should include the impact of loud fireworks on
26 vulnerable populations and inventory public policies proposed or adopted by
27 other states.

28 References: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/silent-fireworks/>

29 <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/01/science/july-4-fireworks-quiet.html>

30 [http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/35720789/all-of-the-color-none-of-the-noise-](http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/35720789/all-of-the-color-none-of-the-noise-silent-fireworks-displays-could-be-coming-soon)
31 [silent-fireworks-displays-could-be-coming-soon](http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/35720789/all-of-the-color-none-of-the-noise-silent-fireworks-displays-could-be-coming-soon)

32 <https://www.wired.com/story/more-inclusive-fourth-of-july-drone-show/>

33 [https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2018/07/03/drones-replace-july-4th-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2018/07/03/drones-replace-july-4th-fireworks-western-towns-worried-wildfires/752966002/)
34 [fireworks-western-towns-worried-wildfires/752966002/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2018/07/03/drones-replace-july-4th-fireworks-western-towns-worried-wildfires/752966002/)

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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1 **Resolution #17 – Daytime Running Lights**
 2 **Goshen Grange #121, Chester County**

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 4 **Whereas** Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Law 4302 requires a vehicle’s headlights to
 5 be on while the windshield wipers are on; and

6 **Whereas** some auto manufacturers produce vehicles with headlights on all the
 7 time (daytime running lights) but not all auto manufacturers produce vehicles
 8 with taillights on all the time, causing confusion among the drivers when they
 9 switch to a different vehicle and also causing potentially dangerous conditions
 10 when driving in poor weather. Therefore, be it

11
 12 **Resolved** that the Pennsylvania State Grange lobby for auto manufacturers to
 13 be required to produce or program all new vehicles with daytime running lights
 14 that would include both headlights and taillights.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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 18 **Resolution #18 – Handheld Cell Phones**
 19 **Goshen Grange #121, Chester County**

20
 21 **Whereas**, many states surrounding Pennsylvania (New Jersey, Delaware,
 22 Maryland, New York and Connecticut) have passed laws banning the use of
 23 handheld cell phones while driving; and

24 **Whereas**, the current Pennsylvania distracted driving law (Title 75, para 3316)
 25 only prohibits the use of an “interactive wireless communications device to send,
 26 read or write a text-based communication” while driving; and

27 **Whereas**, the most recent bill, House Bill 1684 introduced in 2017, requiring the
 28 use of hands-free accessories to make phone calls while driving, has again
 29 stalled in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Therefore, be it

30
 31 **Resolved**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange support passage of a more
 32 comprehensive distracted driving law that includes restrictions on handheld
 33 devices and that makes the use of a handheld device while driving a primary
 34 offense.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES			X		

1 **Resolution #19 – Use of Social Security Numbers for identification**
 2 **Berks County Pomona #43**

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 4 **WHEREAS**, Social Security numbers are for Social Security and tax purposes
 5 only and not for identification as stated on Social Security cards; and

6 **WHEREAS**, stores, doctor offices, hospitals, companies, etc. request/require
 7 Social Security numbers as a form of identification and to check credit scores;
 8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, the United States government is changing identification numbers on
 10 Medicare cards from Social Security numbers with a letter to completely different
 11 identification numbers to prevent identity theft. Therefore, be it

12
 13 **RESOLVED**, that all stores, doctor offices, hospitals, companies, etc. be required
 14 to no longer use Social Security numbers as identification; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that all stores, doctor offices, hospitals, companies, etc. use
 16 different numbers or another means of identification for customers and patients.
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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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 20 **Resolution #20 – Need for Revision of State Pension Funds**
 21 **Berks County Pomona #43**

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 23 **WHEREAS**, a legislature who pleaded guilty to corruption, was convicted and
 24 sent to prison but still gets his nearly quarter-million-dollar-a-year pension
 25 restored; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the state Employees Retirement System made the decision to
 27 restore pension; and

28 **WHEREAS**, this sets a dangerous precedent that will open the door for other
 29 Legislators convicted of crimes to request having pensions restored. Therefore,
 30 be it

31
 32 **RESOLVED**, our state lawmakers could save taxpayers’ dollars by overhauling
 33 the pension system by having any lawmaker convicted of a felony forfeit any and
 34 all of their pension earned.
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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

1 **Resolution #21 – Taxpayer Funds Used to Pay for Sexual Harassment Cases**
 2 **Berks County Pomona #43**

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 4 **WHEREAS**, there are some legislators, governmental administrative/executive
 5 personnel in both state and national government that have been accused of
 6 sexual harassment by employees under their jurisdiction; and

7 **WHEREAS**, many of these sexual harassment claims have been settled with tax
 8 money. Therefore, be it

9
 10 **RESOLVED**, any state or national legislator, governmental administrative/
 11 executive should be held accountable for his/her own actions and not use tax
 12 money to settle any harassment case, but should come from the individuals own
 13 personal funds if found guilty.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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 16 **Resolution #22 – Drones**
 17 **PA State Grange Executive Committee (Adopted 09/08/2018)**

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 19 **WHEREAS**, there are literally millions of commercial drones and drones owned
 20 by private citizens flying today; and

21 **WHEREAS**, when drones fly over public events, there is a safety risk to
 22 attendees should a drone fall, a public safety hazard, for example with wires, or
 23 a violation of proprietary rights such as musical acts at a concert or county Fair,
 24 or athletic event where not already restricted by the Federal Aviation
 25 Administration; and

26 **WHEREAS**, drone use is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration but
 27 there is legal lack of clarity as to permissible drone activities in Pennsylvania.
 28 Therefore, be it

29
 30 **RESOLVED**, that the PENNSYLVANIA State Grange advocate curbs on drone use
 31 over public events in Pennsylvania through action in Pennsylvania or at the
 32 Federal level, or both.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #23 – Pensions**
2 **Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee (Adopted 03/20/2018)**
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4 **WHEREAS**, there is documentation that 2.1 million Pennsylvanians do not have
5 access to a pension plan, most recently by a study by Philadelphia-based
6 consultant firm Econsult on January 25, 2018 which said that insufficient
7 retirement planning could result in \$14.3 billion dollars of state money spent on
8 entitlement programs such as Medicaid for those who did not have a retirement
9 plan; and
10 **WHEREAS**, the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania suggested that
11 a state-run pension plan be established where small employers would be
12 required to participate and employees would be automatically enrolled unless
13 they proactively opted out; and
14 **WHEREAS**, although the goal is commendable, that proposed solution does not
15 recognize added administrative costs for small businesses; and
16 **WHEREAS**, such a plan would erode employees’ self-reliance in planning for
17 retirement and puts the government with private sector insurance agents and
18 brokers who seek to help businesses to establish pension plans. Therefore, be it
19
20 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange oppose the creation of a state-
21 run pension plan; and be it further
22 **RESOLVED**, that Pennsylvania State Government devote more resources to
23 educate citizens about the need to prepare for financial self-sufficiency after
24 retirement and to educate them as to the private sectors that might be available.
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COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution 24 — Landline Telephone Service**
2 **Governmental Committee**

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4 **WHEREAS**, due to advances in technology, many telephone companies are
5 converting telephonic services to recent technologies and are phasing out the
6 infrastructure that makes land line telephone use possible in rural areas; and
7 **WHEREAS**, many rural Pennsylvanians are not able to use cellular telephones
8 because of the lack of Broadband access; and
9 **WHEREAS**, isolated individuals, particularly the elderly and disabled, are put at
10 physical and mental risk without landline telephone service; and
11 **WHEREAS**, current Pennsylvania law requires continued landline telephone
12 service through the Universal Service Fund which keeps landline telephone
13 service more affordable for telephone companies to maintain. Therefore, be it
14
15 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange support continuance of the
16 Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund and urges the Pennsylvania General
17 Assembly to support continued landline telephone service to rural areas until
18 there is universal access to Broadband.

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COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

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3 **Resolution #25 — All Granger Banquet**
4 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

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6 **WHEREAS**, the Grange is founded on church-related beliefs and principals; and
7 **WHEREAS**, many Grangers have responsibilities at their home churches on
8 Sunday mornings; and
9 **WHEREAS**, many State Grange attendees must leave the Annual Session on
10 Saturday making it impossible for those members to attend a midday banquet on
11 Sunday; and
12 **WHEREAS**, it is very difficult to schedule guests to a midday banquet on
13 Sunday. Therefore, be it

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15 **RESOLVED**, that the All-Granger Banquet be returned to the Saturday evening
16 schedule of the Annual State Grange Schedule.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

18
19 **Resolution #26 — State Grange Banquets & Recognition**
20 **Crawford County Pomona Grange #26**

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania State Grange Session schedule prevented
23 delegates and guests from participating in activities; and
24 **WHEREAS**, holding two banquets is costly to delegates and guests, as well as
25 the Host Committee; and
26 **WHEREAS**, the Granger of the Year and Grange Family of the Year
27 announcements were made on Sunday when many had left for home. Therefore,
28 be it

29
30 **RESOLVED**, that there be only one banquet held Saturday evening, namely All
31 Granger Banquet and ALL awards and recognition and Foundation Auction be done
32 at that time; and be if further

33 **RESOLVED**, that there be no outside speaker, with the possibility of only the talent
34 Best of Show as entertainment.

35

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

1 **Resolution #27 — Annual Session**
2 **Beaver County Pomona Grange #66**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, when the annual session of the State Grange was changed to include
5 a weekend back in 1997, a restriction was included in the resolution that there
6 be no sessions requiring delegate action scheduled for Sunday; and

7 **WHEREAS**, this limitation has caused difficulty in developing working schedules
8 for the annual sessions over the years. Therefore, be it

9
10 **RESOLVED**, that sessions requiring delegate action may be held on Sunday, and
11 be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that Sunday business should not be scheduled and should only be
13 conducted in unusual circumstances where additional delegate action on Sunday
14 would complete the business of session.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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20 **Resolution #28 — Pennsylvania State Grange Internal E-Mail Address**
21 **Beaver County #66**

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the chief elected officer of the Pennsylvania State Grange is elected
24 and installed as the Master; and

25 **WHEREAS**, there was for many years an e-mail address for use by local Grange
26 members for the Pennsylvania State Grange Master which was
27 master@pagrange.org; and

28 **WHEREAS**, such an address should be used for internal Grange use. Therefore,
29 be it

30
31 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange reinstate the email address for
32 the State Master for internal use, that being master@pagrange.org.

33

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

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1 **Resolution #29 – PENNSYLVANIA State Grange Schedule**
2 **Crawford County Pomona Grange #26**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania State Grange schedule is under many time
5 constraints for conducting the business of the Pennsylvania State Grange; and
6 **WHEREAS**, when resolutions requiring bylaw changes must be read and allow
7 for 24 hours before they may be acted on by the delegate body; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Good of the Order and the budget are always the last pieces of
9 business to be acted on; and
10 **WHEREAS**, many of the delegates have left for home. Therefore, be it

11
12 **RESOLVED**, that the official opening is at 1:00 pm on Thursday, and concludes
13 Sunday at Noon with church service, Junior Degree and installation when
14 needed; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, all business requiring 24-hour action be presented following the
16 opening of session, thus allowing time for discussion; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Sixth Degree be conferred Saturday afternoon and the All
18 Granger Banquet be held Saturday evening.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

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1 **Resolution #30 – Length of State Grange Session**
 2 **Butler County Pomona Grange #17**

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 4 Research information from past sessions.

- 5 • 2004 – Friday to Tuesday with Session starting on Saturday at 1 pm and closing
- 6 on Monday after all the work was completed.
- 7 • 2007 – Friday to Monday with session starting on Saturday 1:00 pm and closing
- 8 on Monday after all the work was completed.
- 9 • 2010; 2011 and 2012 – Friday to Monday with session starting on Saturday at
- 10 10:00 am and closing on Monday after all the work was completed.
- 11 • 2013; 2014 and 2015 – Friday to Monday with session starting at 9:00 and
- 12 closing on Monday after all the work was completed.
- 13 • 2016; 2017 and now 2018 – Thursday to Monday with session starting at 9:00
- 14 Friday. The only things we could do on Sunday was Church, sign-a-song; public
- 15 speaking and the banquet, as we are not permitted to conduct business on
- 16 Sunday because of our by-laws.
- 17 • In the early years of State Grange Session was met for 4 days or more, there was
- 18 time to offer more things to members. i.e. tours of the local area, speakers who
- 19 presented programs that were of interest to members; companies who offered
- 20 member benefits to explain what they were offering and how they could help
- 21 membership.
- 22 • We have lost a lot of the benefits and the personal touch that our members used
- 23 to get as we continue to shorten the State Grange Session.

24
 25 **WHEREAS**, by shortening the State Grange Session over the years as we have,
 26 we have drastically cut the time any of our member benefit companies have to
 27 interact with our members showing them the value of being a member; and

28 **WHEREAS**, by shortening the State Grange Session our members do not have
 29 time to interact with other members from throughout the State and view all
 30 exhibits created by our members and discuss with all department committees to
 31 learn new ideas and ways on how to involve all members; and

32 **WHEREAS**, by shortening the State Grange Session our President/Master, our
 33 Membership Director and our Legislative Consultant does not have the time to
 34 put on workshops that will bring our members up to date on events that are
 35 happening in the State thus effecting our members; and

36 **WHEREAS**, by taking back the one day we lost at State Grange Session would
 37 not only prove to be a valuable asset to our Session but also to help give our
 38 existing members the tools and resources to grow our membership. Therefore,
 39 be it

40
 41 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange Session be extended by one
 42 more day at the earliest possible date; and be it further

43 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange President/Master and Executive
 44 Committee be charged with making the change as soon as possible.

45

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE			X		
DELEGATES			X		

1 **Resolution #31 — Loans to Local Granges**
 2 **Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee**

3
 4 **WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania State Grange will make loans to
 5 Community/Subordinate and Pomona Granges for Grange building and grounds
 6 improvements and upkeep upon a request which includes estimates of
 7 anticipated costs; and

8 **WHEREAS**, these monies are loaned from the Closed Grange Investment
 9 account managed by the Pennsylvania State Grange Treasurer; and

10 **WHEREAS**, monetary loan limits need to be established as guidance to the
 11 Executive Committee. Therefore, be it

12
 13 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange By-laws be amended to add the
 14 following:

15 "Article XIII — Financial Matters

16 1.13.1 Loans to Community/Subordinate and Pomona Granges for Grange
 17 Hall/Building and grounds improvements and upkeep will be considered
 18 by the Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee upon request.

19
 20 1.13.2 Loan requests must include a written copy of all estimates.

21 1.13.3 Loans must not exceed 70% of appraised value of property.

22 1.13.4 Loans not to exceed \$50,000 to any Community/Subordinate or Pomona
 23 Grange."

24
 25 And be it further.

26 **RESOLVED**, that present Article XIII "Amendments" and its sub-articles be
 27 renumbered as Article XIV.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #32 — Pennsylvania State Grange Employees**
 2 **Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee**

3
 4 **WHEREAS**, under the current Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws, Article
 5 1.7.1.2 it states: "The President/Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange shall
 6 be responsible for the hiring of staff and maintenance of the State Grange Office
 7 at 20 Erford Rd, Suite 216 Lemoyne, PA under the guidelines established by the
 8 delegate body and monitored by the State Grange Executive Committee"; and
 9 **WHEREAS**, in all likely hood the President/Master and the Executive Committee
 10 working together as a team could better share the responsibility for the
 11 employing and terminating of employees thus better serving the membership
 12 and assuring appropriate handling of employees; and
 13 **WHEREAS**, the setting of salaries/wages should be done in conjunction with the
 14 Executive Committee and State Grange budget; and
 15 **WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania State Grange may not always be located on Erford
 16 Road. Therefore, be it

17
 18 **RESOLVED**, that Article 1.7.1.2 of the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws read:
 19 "The Pennsylvania State Grange President/Master in conjunction with the
 20 Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee be responsible for the
 21 employing and terminating of all employees along with setting appropriate
 22 salaries/wages.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **Resolution #33 – Maintaining the Office of the Pennsylvania State**
 2 **Grange**
 3 **Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee**

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, under the current Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws, Article
 6 1.7.1.2 it states: “The President/Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange shall
 7 be responsible for the hiring of staff and maintenance of the State Grange Office
 8 at 20 Erford Rd, Suite 216, Lemoyne, PA under the guidelines established by the
 9 delegate body and monitored by the State Grange Executive Committee”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in all likelihood the President/Master and the Executive Committee
 11 working together as a team could better share the responsibility of office
 12 maintenance; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania State Grange Office may not always be located on
 14 Erford Road. Therefore, be it

15
 16 **RESOLVED**, that Article 1.7.1.3 of the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws read:
 17 “The Pennsylvania State Grange President/Master in conjunction with the
 18 Pennsylvania State Grange Executive Committee be responsible for maintaining
 19 the Pennsylvania State Grange Office; and be it further

20 **RESOLVED**, that current Article 1.7.1.3 be renumbered as 1.7.1.4, current
 21 Article 1.7.1.4 be renumbered as 1.7.1.5. and current Article 1.7.1.5 be
 22 renumbered as 1.7.1.6.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

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1 **FAMILY ISSUES**

2
3 **Resolution #34 – Freedom to Raise Children**
4 **Pleasant Valley Grange #1643**
5 **Mercer County Pomona Grange #25**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, rural America has long raised children by fostering early
8 development of responsibility, independence and resourcefulness; and
9 **WHEREAS**, there is a growing advocacy for “helicopter parenting” and constant
10 close supervision and even legislating and mandating those behaviors. Therefore,
11 be it

12
13 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange advocate for keeping the
14 freedom to raise children and develop their responsibility, independence, and
15 resourcefulness without legislated and mandated guidelines for supervision,
16 control and parental behavior.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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21 **Resolution #35 – Service Animal Fraud**
22 **Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County**

23
24 **WHEREAS**, lax or ambiguous regulations for service/support animals can allow
25 owners to fraudulently claim untrained pets to be service/support animals; and
26 **WHEREAS**, these untrained or unsuitable animals can pose a risk to public
27 safety by allowing their access to areas where animals would otherwise not be
28 allowed; Therefore, be it

29
30 **RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania State Grange support legislation to more
31 strongly regulate service/support animals to reduce the opportunity for
32 fraudulently claiming pets to be service/support animals.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE	X				
DELEGATES	X				

1 **Resolution #36 – Child Abuse Clearances**
 2 **PA State Grange Executive Committee**

3 **WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), hundreds of
 4 thousands of children (individuals under age 18) are abused every year in the
 5 United States; and

6 **WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, most cases of abuse are perpetrated by
 7 familiar adults; and

8 **WHEREAS**, most states have policies requiring all adults who work with children
 9 to have Child Abuse Clearances, State Police Background Checks, and National
 10 Criminal Background Checks; and

11 **WHEREAS**, many volunteer organizations, community groups, and churches are
 12 enacting policies requiring their employees and volunteers provide Child Abuse
 13 Clearances and State and National Criminal Background Checks, for the
 14 protection of the organization, the volunteers, and the children; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the National Grange currently has no such policy in place. Therefore
 16 be it

17
 18 **RESOLVED**, that the National Grange establish a policy for all officers, staff
 19 members, and volunteers at all levels of the Grange who come in contact with
 20 children to provide Child Abuse Clearances, State Police Background Checks, and
 21 National Criminal Background Checks in compliance with their respective state’s
 22 requirements.

23

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE		X			
DELEGATES		X			

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The resolutions were voted and adopted on by the delegates at the 146th Pennsylvania State Grange Session held in Cranberry Township, PA. (October 2018)