Pennsylvania State Grange

Resolutions

154th Annual Session
October 16-18, 2026
Grantville, PA

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AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Resolution #1 — Supporting American Farmers and the Workforce
Valley Grange #1360, York County

WHEREAS: farmers face ongoing labor shortages that impact planting, harvesting, livestock care, and food production, and

WHEREAS: the Pennsylvania State Grange and National Grange have existing policy supporting agricultural immigrant laborers and the farms on which they work, and

WHEREAS: maintaining a strong agricultural workforce is essential to protecting family farms, supporting rural economies, and ensuring the continued availability of a safe and accessible food supply; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania's Congressman G.T. Thompson has proposed legislation – Security Agriculture's Workforce Act of 2026 – that would allow H2A workers to receive visas for one year or up to three years if certain conditions are met and streamline this process, increasing the availability of a year-round agricultural labor force; therefore it be

RESOLVED: that the National Grange support policies that would update visa requirements for year-round agricultural operations (such as dairy, livestock, and mushroom farms), and be it further

RESOLVED: that the National Grange support Congressman G.T. Thompson's proposed Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act of 2026.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #2 — Fair in Lieu of Tax Payments for State Owned Lands
Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County

WHEREAS: more than three million acres of State Game Lands, state forests, and state parks are exempt from local real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS: the fixed per-acre payments made in lieu of taxes do not adequately compensate counties, municipalities, and school districts for lost tax revenue or services provided to these lands and their visitors; and

WHEREAS: this loss of revenue places a greater tax burden on private owners, particularly in rural communities with large amounts of state-owned land; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange urge the General Assembly urge the General Assembly and Governor to establish payments in lieu of taxes for State Game Lands and Department Conservation and Natural Resources lands equal to at least seventy percent (70%) of the local real estate taxes that comparable privately owned land would generate; and be it further

RESOLVED: that payments be based on current assessed values and local millage rates and updated regularly; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the State Grange Legislative Committee advocate for legislation implementing this reform and forward this resolution to the appropriate state officials and legislators.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #3 —Agricultural Education in Pennsylvania Schools
PA State Grange Youth Department

WHEREAS: agriculture is vital to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting more than 48,800 farms, approximately 600,000 jobs, and contributing $132.5 billion annually to Pennsylvania's economy; and

WHEREAS: only a limited number of Pennsylvania schools offer agricultural education, leaving many students without the opportunity to learn about agriculture, food production, and the many career opportunities within the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS: agriculture includes careers in science, technology, engineering, business, food production, natural resources, communications, and many other fields beyond traditional farming, with thousands of agricultural-related positions going unfilled each year; and

WHEREAS: approximately 80 percent of surveyed high school students believe agricultural science education is important to future success, yet only 19 percent would consider an agricultural career and only 36 percent are familiar with agricultural careers beyond farm work; and

WHEREAS: providing agricultural education would increase agricultural literacy, help students understand where and how their food is produced, and expose students to valuable career opportunities; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support requiring the Pennsylvania Department of Education to implement that all Pennsylvania public high schools to offer students access to an agricultural education course; and be it further

RESOLVED: that such courses provide instruction in agricultural literacy, food systems, agricultural science and technology, natural resources, and career opportunities throughout the agricultural industry.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #4 —Raising Awareness and Supporting Research Regarding Beech Leaf Disease (Blight)

Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076, Lancaster County

WHEREAS: Beech Leaf Disease is a relatively new threat to American forests, capable of killing a beech sapling in one to two years, and a mature tree in seven years; and

WHEREAS: since its discovery in Lake County, Ohio in 2012, Beech Leaf Disease has been found to affect all species of beech trees, and has now been detected in 13 states, Ontario, and all 67 counties in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS: new research has shown that the blight is likely caused by an invasive species of microscopic foliar roundworm, thus far making wide-spread treatment difficult and prevention uncertain; and

WHEREAS: trial models in Ohio estimate that losing just half of their state's native beech trees could have an economic impact of $225 million, curtail hardwood exports, open beech trees to other pathogens and stressors, and reshape the nature of the region's forests composition; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange and National Grange work to raise awareness of Beech Leaf Disease through education and outreach, and seek further state and federal funding for research to mitigate the damage caused by this disease.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

Resolution #5 — Support for Veterinary Telehealth Modernization in Pennsylvania

Red Lion Grange #1781, York County

WHEREAS: access to timely and affordable veterinary care is essential to the health and welfare of Pennsylvania's livestock, companion animals, and other animals; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania, particularly its rural communities, faces challenges in maintaining adequate access to veterinary services as demand for veterinary care increases and shortages in the veterinary workforce make timely appointments and treatment more difficult to obtain; and

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WHEREAS: farmers, livestock producers, pet owners, animal shelters, rescues, and other animal owners may be required to travel significant distances or experience delays in obtaining veterinary services; and

WHEREAS: advances in telecommunications technology provide veterinarians with additional opportunities to evaluate animals, consult with owners, provide follow-up care, monitor ongoing treatment, and determine when an in-person veterinary examination is necessary; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania law generally requires an in-person examination to establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship before veterinary medical services may be provided through telehealth; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania Senator Joe Picozzi has proposed the Veterinary Telehealth Modernization Act, which would update Pennsylvania's Veterinary Medicine Practice Act to permit a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to be established through real-time audio and video communication when medically appropriate; and

WHEREAS: veterinary telehealth is not intended to replace necessary hands-on veterinary care, but can serve as an additional tool for licensed veterinarians to improve access, provide continuity of care, assist with follow-up and ongoing treatment, and determine when an animal requires an in-person examination; and

WHEREAS: responsible expansion of veterinary telehealth may help reduce delays in obtaining care, provide greater flexibility to veterinarians, improve access to veterinary services in underserved and rural areas, and potentially reduce costs and travel burdens for farmers and other animal owners while maintaining appropriate standards for animal health and welfare; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support modernization of Pennsylvania's veterinary laws to permit licensed veterinarians to provide veterinary telehealth services and establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship through real-time audio and video communication when medically appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange Legislative Department advocate before the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Administration for policies that responsibly expand veterinary telehealth as a means of improving access to veterinary care for Pennsylvania's farmers, livestock producers, pet owners, animal welfare organizations, and rural communities.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #6 — No Paraquat Ban
Goshen Grange #121, Chester County

WHEREAS: Paraquat is a fast-acting, highly toxic chemical used globally as an EPA-registered herbicide to kill weeds and grass on contact, also used to dry out crops like cotton before harvest; and

WHEREAS: Paraquat is one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States, used to control weeds since it was first brought it to market in 1962. It has continued importance to farmers who view Paraquat as a much-needed option to safeguard crops from invasive and harmful weeds, while enabling conservation agricultural practices and integrated weed management; and

WHEREAS: Paraquat is classified as a restricted-use pesticide used exclusively in commercial agriculture; only certified, licensed applicators can buy or use it; it is banned for residential, home, or public garden use; and

WHEREAS: Paraquat has a unique mode of action, which makes it effective against weeds that have developed resistance to other herbicides, such as glyphosate-resistant species. Paraquat is quickly immobilized upon contact with soil, which means it doesn't have residual activity that could affect subsequent crops. This characteristic makes it suitable for use in crop rotation systems. Because paraquat can control weeds without disturbing the soil, it is compatible with conservation tillage and no-till farming practices, which help prevent soil erosion and maintain soil health; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the PA State Grange lobby the State Legislature to continue to allow Paraquat to be an option for farmers when needed in their operations and not ban use of this chemical which many farmers still consider an essential component of their farming toolbox.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

Resolution #7 —PA Medicaid
Baileyville Grange #1991, Centre County

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania's Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program provides comprehensive health coverage to millions of low-income children, older adults, individuals with disabilities, pregnant women, and other eligible residents throughout the Commonwealth. Prescription medications are a critical component of healthcare for Medicaid beneficiaries, helping prevent disease progression, reduce hospitalizations, improve quality of life, and lower overall healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS: the Commonwealth invests billions of dollars annually in its Medicaid program, making responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources and efficient administration of prescription drug benefits essential priorities; and

WHEREAS: Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) play a significant role in administering prescription drug benefits by negotiating rebates, managing pharmacy networks, and processing prescription drug claims, making transparency and accountability in these activities vital to ensure that public funds are used effectively; and

WHEREAS: independent and community pharmacies are often the most accessible healthcare providers for many Pennsylvanians, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and play an essential role in ensuring patients receive timely access to medications and pharmacist counseling; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania House Bill 2270 proposes establishing a single State Pharmacy Benefit Manager for the Commonwealth's Medicaid program to administer pharmacy benefits in a more consistent and transparent manner under State oversight; and

WHEREAS: a centralized pharmacy benefit administration model has the potential to improve oversight, promote transparency, strengthen accountability, reduce unnecessary administrative complexity, and help ensure that savings generated within the Medicaid pharmacy program are used to benefit Pennsylvania taxpayers and Medicaid recipients; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports PA House Bill 2270 and urges members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate to carefully consider the benefits of House Bill 2270, supporting legislation that advances accessible, affordable, and patient-centered healthcare.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #8 —Door to Door Solicitation
Valley Grange #1360, York County

WHEREAS: many residents have faced uninvited solicitation, high-pressure sales tactics, and potentially illegitimate door-to-door salespeople at their residences, and

WHEREAS: many Pennsylvania municipalities have adopted local ordinances regulating door-to-door solicitation, and

WHEREAS: these local ordinances vary widely across the Commonwealth, creating confusion for homeowners, and

WHEREAS: a consistent state-wide framework would provide clearer protections for residents, while creating predictable requirements for solicitors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support policies requiring individuals engaged in door-to-door sales to register with the municipality and display proper identification showing their name and company they represent, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support legislation that would strengthen penalties for violating "no solicitation" signs, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support the creation of a voluntary state-wide "Do-not-solicit" registry, allowing homeowners to request that door-to-door sales solicitations not occur at their residences.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #9 — Data Center Policy
Oliver Grange #1069, Perry County

WHEREAS: The demand for, and use of, Artificial Intelligence in all aspects of our businesses and our lives is growing at an exponential rate, and

WHEREAS: the explosive growth of Artificial Intelligence is driving an-equally exploding demand for building new Data Centers all-across America, and

WHEREAS: Data Centers require 4 critical resources, namely: land to build on, access to plentiful water, access to plentiful and affordable power, and readily-available access to Internet connectivity, and

WHEREAS: production agriculture requires land, water and electricity to thrive, as an industry, and that same industry is also a critical source of America's food supply and driver of our economy, and

WHEREAS: the rapid expansion of Data Centers across America will be increasing the competitive demand on the local availability of water, affordable and available power, and land on which to build (including farmland), and

WHEREAS: the Grange, from its founding, has protected, promoted and supported responsible Production Agriculture in all forms, while also supporting free enterprise, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Grange develop policy, and act, through legislative efforts, to collaborate with other organizations where possible, and alone, where not, to implement responsible governmental guidelines and laws that will regulate-responsibly, the expansion of these Data Centers, in such a way as to prevent their ability to impede or unfairly compete with Production Agriculture for resources, or to put those people who engage in Production Agriculture at a financial, productive or competitive disadvantage, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Grange work to educate their members, as well as the public, as to the importance of maintaining a healthy and profitable Agricultural Economy, as paramount to maintaining a healthy national economy.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #10 —Preserving Prime and Statewide Important Farmland and Discouraging AI or Hyperscale Data Center Development on these lands in Pennsylvania

California Grange #941, Montour County

WHEREAS:: Pennsylvania is home to some of the most productive farmland and groundwater resources in the United States, particularly the highly fertile and productive limestone soil landscapes, which support a strong agricultural economy and provides food security for the Commonwealth and beyond; and

WHEREAS:: rapid AI or Hyperscale data center development and associated power and water consumption is increasingly targeting prime agricultural soils due to their proximity to power generation plants, gas pipelines, transmission corridors, highways, and metropolitan markets; and

WHEREAS:: the conversion of prime and statewide important farmland to AI or Hyperscale data center use results in permanent loss of irreplaceable agricultural land and water resources, threatens local and Statewide food production capacity, increases stormwater runoff, and accelerates industrialization; and

WHEREAS:: Pennsylvania already has extensive areas of marginal or less-productive farmland and previously developed sites (e.g. brown fields, existing industrial zones, former shopping centers, etc.) that could be better suited for AI or Hyperscale data center development without jeopardizing the state's most fertile soils; and

WHEREAS:: farmland preservation programs have invested millions of taxpayer dollars in protecting prime soils, and such efforts are undermined when AI and Hyperscale data centers are constructed on or adjacent to these protected lands; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports policies and legislation that opposes the construction of AI or Hyperscale data centers and other large-scale non-agricultural developments (industrialization) on prime and statewide important farmland; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange urges state and local governments to create incentives, such as tax benefits, zoning preferences, and infrastructure investment, that encourage AI or Hyperscale data center development on less-productive farmland, brownfield sites, and other non-prime farmlands.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #11 —Protection of Prime and Preserved Farmland from Data Centers and Associated Rights-of-Way

Eagle Grange #1, Lycoming County

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania's prime, productive farmland is a finite resource that supports food security, local economies, environmental stewardship, and the continued viability of family farms; and

WHEREAS: state, county, municipal, and private funds have been invested in preserving agricultural land and protecting it from conversion to nonagricultural development; and

WHEREAS: commercial data centers require substantial supporting infrastructure, including substations, transmission lines, water and sewer facilities, access roads, fiber-optic lines, and permanent or temporary rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS: these facilities and rights-of-way may fragment fields, compact productive soils, damage drainage systems, interfere with farm operations, and reduce the long-term agricultural value of affected properties; and

WHEREAS: brownfields, previously developed properties, existing utility corridors, and appropriately zoned industrial areas should be used before prime farmland, Agricultural Security Areas, or preserved farmland is disturbed; therefore be

RESOLVED: that Eagle Grange #1 opposes the placement of commercial data centers and infrastructure primarily serving them on preserved farmland or within Agricultural Security Areas and supports an avoidance-first policy for prime agricultural soils and actively farmed land; and be It further

RESOLVED: that township, county, and state officials be urged to require data center developers to disclose and jointly review all associated infrastructure and rights-of-way, consider reasonable alternative sites and routes, minimize the fragmentation of farmland, and provide for soil restoration, drainage repair, crop-loss compensation, and financial security for affected properties; and be It Further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support and encourage legislation that protects prime and preserved farmland from data center development, associated infrastructure, and the unnecessary use of eminent domain.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #12 —Establishing PA State Grange Policy on Data Centers
Hamburg Grange #2103, Berks County
Berks County Pomona Grange #43

WHEREAS: advances in digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data processing are critical to economic growth, national competitiveness, education, healthcare, and technological innovation; and

WHEREAS: data centers play an increasingly important role in supporting these technologies and creating opportunities for investment, employment, and economic development; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania's agricultural lands are a finite and irreplaceable resource that provide food security, sustain rural economies, preserve open space, and support generations of farm families; and

WHEREAS: the substantial electrical demand of large-scale data centers can place additional burdens on existing electric infrastructure and may contribute to higher costs or reduced reliability for residential, commercial, and agricultural consumers if not properly planned; and

WHEREAS: encouraging data centers to develop dedicated or supplemental on-site energy generation, energy storage, and other resilient infrastructure can reduce impacts on the public electric grid while improving reliability and supporting long-term energy security; and

WHEREAS: responsible planning should balance technological advancement with stewardship of agricultural resources, environmental responsibility, and the interests of rural communities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports the responsible development of data centers that promote innovation, strengthen the economy, and enhance the nation's technological capabilities; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange advocates for policies that prioritize the protection and preservation of productive agricultural land by directing large-scale industrial development, including data centers, toward existing industrial sites, brownfields, and other suitable non-agricultural locations whenever feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange encourages data center developers to incorporate sufficient on-site or dedicated energy resources, including generation, storage, or other technologies, to meet a substantial portion of their operational energy needs and reduce dependence on the existing electric grid; and be it further

RESOLVED: that any proposed data center development should be evaluated for its potential impacts on agricultural operations, electric reliability, water resources, transportation infrastructure, and surrounding communities before receiving public approvals or incentives; and be it further

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RESOLVED: that public policies should ensure that the costs of infrastructure upgrades required to serve large-scale data centers are allocated fairly and do not place undue financial burdens on residential consumers, farmers, or existing businesses.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

Resolution #13 — Bartenders & Waitresses Held Accountable for Overserving Alcohol to Customers

Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County

WHEREAS: for decades people have been overserved in taverns and other establishments causing death and injury as a result of drinking; and

WHEREAS: bartenders and waitresses are held accountable if they overserve alcohol to customers who kill or injure someone; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that judges who release criminals that kill or injure people afterward be held to the same standards.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #14 —Increased Penalties for Bicycle Law Violations
Valley Grange #1360, York County

WHEREAS: there is an increased use of electric bicycles (E-bikes) throughout Pennsylvania, with PennDOT reporting a 5-year high of bicycle-related accidents and cyclists' deaths with E-bikes comprising a considerable portion of these accidents/deaths[1], and

WHEREAS: there are existing bicycle laws that govern the use of E-bikes, and

WHEREAS: many communities across Pennsylvania continue to experience violations of these laws and safety concerns, particularly with underaged E-bike riders, and

WHEREAS: the existing penalties are not effective in minimizing unsafe or illegal use of E-bikes; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports increased financial and legal penalties for violations of Pennsylvania state bicycle laws for those operating E-bikes.

[1] Maenza, A. (2026, July 15). Death of 12-year-old boy leads to questions about e-bike safety. *York Daily Record.*

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #15 —Time Off for Voting
Valley Grange #1360, York County

WHEREAS: the Grange has a long history of encouraging its members to be civically responsible and active participants in electing their government officials, and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania does not have any current requirements for businesses to allow employees time off to vote, and

WHEREAS: 29 other states across the US have laws requiring businesses to provide time off for employees to vote, including Maryland, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas, among others, and

WHEREAS: allowing employees time off to vote would encourage increased in-person participation in elections; therefore be it,

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support legislation that would allow time off for qualified and registered employees to vote, such as SB 443 of 2025-2026, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the National Grange support legislation that would allow time off for qualified and registered employees to vote.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #16 —Support for Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services
PA State Grange Youth Department

WHEREAS: 96.5 percent of Pennsylvania fire departments are mostly or entirely volunteer and provide essential emergency services, particularly in rural communities; and

WHEREAS: nearly 40 percent of rural EMS calls involve medically complex patients, while transports to specialty care may take more than 40 minutes longer than the national average; and

WHEREAS: emergency call volume has tripled over the past 30 years as volunteer fire and EMS agencies face declining membership, inadequate reimbursement, and increasing costs for equipment, training, insurance, and operations; and

WHEREAS: House Bill 1491 would establish an Office of EMS Commissioner and State EMS Advisory Board and provide scholarships to improve EMS recruitment, training, and retention; and

WHEREAS: House Bill 1152 would require insurers to directly reimburse EMS agencies for properly submitted claims, regardless of network participation; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support House Bill 1491 and House Bill 1152, or similar legislation, and urge the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor to provide sustainable funding, fair reimbursement, and recruitment and retention assistance for volunteer fire and emergency medical services, with particular consideration for rural communities; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange Legislative Department actively advocates for policies and legislation that protect and strengthen Pennsylvania's volunteer fire and emergency medical service system.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #17 — Maintain Federal Hemp Reforms
Goshen Grange #121, Chester County

WHEAREAS: Congress passed federal hemp reforms in November 2025; and

WHEREAS: these reforms addressed a problem that developed after passage of the 2018 Farm Bill which legalized hemp production to create opportunities for American agriculture; and

WHEREAS: an unintended loophole allowed products containing delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC and other intoxicating derivatives into the marketplace as gummies, candies, beverages, vaping products, etc., and

WHEREAS: these intoxicating products, marketed as federally lawful "hemp" are sometimes marketed in packaging easily mistaken for ordinary products and attractive to young people; and

WHEREAS: the 2025 reforms revised the federal definition of hemp-derived THC and other intoxicating cannabinoids and establishes limits for the products; and

WHEREAS: the reforms preserve legitimate industrial, agricultural, and non-intoxicating hemp while preventing the unregulated sale of intoxicating cannabis products; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Grange urge Congress to preserve the federal hemp reforms enacted in November 2025.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #18 — Increase the Federal Charitable Mileage Reimbursement Rate
Hamburg Grange #2103
Berks County Pomona Grange #43

WHEREAS: members of nonprofit organizations frequently use their personal vehicles to conduct business on behalf of their organizations; and

WHEREAS: Congress established a federal charitable mileage reimbursement rate, which has remained at 14 cents per mile since its establishment in 1998; and

WHEREAS: the standard IRS mileage rate has more than doubled since 1998, increasing from 32.5 cents per mile in 1998 to 72.5 cents per mile in 2026; and

WHEREAS: the significant increase in the standard IRS mileage rate demonstrates the substantial rise in the costs associated with operating and maintaining personal vehicles, while the federal charitable mileage rate has remained unchanged; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support efforts to increase the federal charitable mileage reimbursement rate to a level that more accurately reflects the costs incurred by individuals who use their personal vehicles in service to charitable and nonprofit organizations; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange urge the National Grange to advocate with Congress and the Internal Revenue Service for legislation or other appropriate action to establish a charitable mileage reimbursement rate of 40 cents per mile.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #19 — Removing Party Affiliation for School Board Candidates in Pennsylvania Elections

Penns Valley Grange #158

WHEREAS: public education is a foundational institution that serves all children and families regardless of political affiliation; and

WHEREAS: school board members are elected to oversee educational quality, fiscal responsibility, student achievement, and community well-being rather than to advance partisan political agendas; and

WHEREAS: the increasing national politicization of local school board elections has contributed to unnecessary division within communities, discouraged constructive civic participation, and placed students at educational risk; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania is one of only five states that requires listing party designation for school board candidates on the general election ballot, while another five states *allow* for the option of listing party affiliation[1]; and

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania's current system of partisan school board elections is established under the Pennsylvania Election Code (Act 320 of 1937), which permits candidates for school director to appear on the ballot with party affiliation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange encourage legislation amending the Pennsylvania Election Code (Act 320 of 1937) to remove party designation from school board candidates in general elections; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange encourage a return to nonpartisan school board elections that prioritize student success and education, community collaboration, and local educational leadership over partisan identification or policies.

Notes

[1] *Ballotpedia: Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania require party listing, while Georgia, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Tennessee all allow the option to list party affiliation, up to the school district to decide.*

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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GOOD OF THE ORDER

Resolution #20 — Committee Representation
Executive Committee

WHEREAS: Section 1.8.1 of the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws reads "Departmental Committees of the State Grange, unless otherwise ordered, shall consist of six members, one representing each region…"; and

WHEREAS: there are now only three regions within the Pennsylvania State Grange (West, Central, and East); and

WHEREAS: it has become increasingly difficult to identify committee members that represent all portions of the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that Section 1.8.1 of the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws be rewritten as follows:

> 1.8.1 Departmental Committees of the State Grange shall consist of an appointed chairperson or co-chairperson and no fewer than three additional members. Committee membership should, whenever practical, reflect the geographic diversity of the State and may be expanded as needed.

The rest of 1.8.1 shall remain the same:

> *Other standing and special committees may be appointed as needed by the President/Master and Vice President/Overseer*.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
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DELEGATES					

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Resolution #21 — E-Membership in By-Laws
Executive Committee

WHEREAS: E-membership is a National Grange membership category and is not administered by the Pennsylvania State Grange; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that Section 1.3.9 "E-membership" be struck from the By-Laws of the Pennsylvania State Grange; and be replaced as follows:

1.3.9 – E-Membership – E-Membership is offered through and administered by the National Grange. The Pennsylvania State Grange shall encourage E-Members residing in Pennsylvania to connect with a Community Grange near them**.**

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

Resolution #22 — National Digest of Law
Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County

WHEREAS: the National Digest of Laws states that each member shall have one vote on each question or matter; and

WHEREAS: some members live some distance from their meeting place; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that members may vote by telecommunications on all matters brought before their Grange at their meetings.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #23 — Accurately Referencing Benevolence in Closing Ceremony
Russellville Grange #91, Chester County

WHEREAS: the National Grange was organized in 1867, during the Reconstruction era following the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS: at that time, there were numerous widows and children without fathers owing to the loss of men who died during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS: the Grange's closing procedures calls for the Order to engage in "helping the fatherless and the widows"; and

WHEREAS: that phrase is antiquated, unnecessarily limiting, and understates the Grange's actual benevolence that generously renders assistance to many people beyond just fatherless children and widows; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Grange's closing procedures be revised as follows:
Brothers and Sisters, as we are again to separate and mingle with the world, let us not forget the principles of our Order. Let us add dignity to labor, and in our dealings with our fellow men, be honest, be just, and fear not. We must avoid intemperance in eating, drinking, and language, also in work and recreation, and whatever we do, strive to do well. Let us be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, those in need, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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Resolution #24 — Non-Discrimination
Executive Committee

WHEREAS: the Pennsylvania State Grange is a subordinate organization of the National Grange and is committed to upholding its principles, values, and governing documents; and

WHEREAS: the National Grange Digest of Laws includes the following non-discrimination language: "4.6.17 Non-Discrimination – The various Granges of the divisions of the Order shall not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin."; and

WHEREAS: the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws should reflect this statement to strengthen our own membership; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the same non-discrimination statement be inserted into the By-Laws of the Pennsylvania State Grange as follows:

> 1.3.1 – The various Granges of the divisions of the Order shall not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or national origin.

and be it further

RESOLVED: that the remainder of Article III in the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws be renumbered appropriately.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

DRAFT

Resolution #25 — Keep National Grange Headquarters in DC
Goshen Grange #121, Chester County

WHEREAS: The National Grange has had a presence in Washington, DC continuously since 1918, renting office space until a building on Jackson Place could be purchased in 1943; and

WHEREAS: a new 11-story building was constructed on H Street NW in 1959-60 and owned until it was sold in 2024; and

WHEREAS: the National Grange was fortunate to be able to continue occupancy of offices on H Street, to the present time, renting from the new owner; and

WHEREAS: a presence in the nation's capital is vital to the legislative influence of the Grange, allowing Grange Advocacy to benefit from partnerships with many organizations who recognize the good reputation of the Grange and its reach to rural residents across the country; and

WHEREAS: these partnerships bring several hundred thousand dollars to the Grange for its lobbying efforts; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the National Grange maintain its headquarters within the greater Washington DC area in order to continue the impact, authority, and good reputation of the Grange in the nation's capital.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

DRAFT

Resolution #26 — Offering the Sixth Degree in Odd Numbered Years
Hamburg Grange #2103, Berks County

WHEREAS: the Sixth Degree is an important milestone in Grange membership and should be conferred in a manner that promotes meaningful participation, fellowship, and recognition of candidates; and

WHEREAS: the number of members applying for and receiving the Sixth Degree at each session has declined in recent years; and

WHEREAS: offering the Sixth Degree every other year would provide an opportunity to assemble a larger class of candidates, enhance fellowship and participation, allow for more effective planning and promotion, and make more efficient use of the resources of both the Pennsylvania State Grange and the local host committee; and

WHEREAS: even-numbered years include a full schedule of officer elections and installations, which require significant time and may make it difficult to accommodate the Sixth Degree and other necessary business within the available schedule; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange amend its policies to provide for the conferral of the Sixth Degree during odd-numbered years only; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange communicate the Sixth Degree schedule to all Subordinate and Pomona Granges sufficiently in advance to encourage candidate participation and facilitate effective planning by candidates, Granges, and the State Grange.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

DRAFT

FAMILY ISSUES

Resolution #27 —Emergency Agricultural Commodity Processing & Food Security Program
Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076, Lancaster County

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania farmers are vulnerable to sudden market disruptions, including the loss of processing contracts, changes in consumer demand, processing capacity limitations and periods of agricultural commodity oversupply; and

WHEREAS: in 2026, grape growers in northwestern Pennsylvania faced the unexpected cancellation of contracts for their crop, leaving growers with hundreds of tons of grapes without an established market and creating significant financial uncertainty for farm families; and

WHEREAS: similar circumstances can affect fruit, vegetables, dairy, meat, poultry, eggs, grains and other agricultural commodities when established markets are suddenly lost or processing and supply-chain disruptions occur; and

WHEREAS: the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS) has demonstrated the value of partnerships among farmers, processors, the Commonwealth and Pennsylvania's charitable food network by helping cover costs associated with harvesting, processing, packaging and transporting Pennsylvania-produced agricultural products for distribution to families in need; and

WHEREAS: such a program should serve as a temporary market bridge rather than replace traditional commercial markets, providing farmers with an outlet for their commodities while they identify and develop new long-term markets; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange support the development and adequate funding of state programs, including the expansion or enhancement of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System, to purchase, process, package, store and transport Pennsylvania-grown and produced agricultural commodities for distribution through the Commonwealth's charitable food system during periods of significant market disruption or commodity surplus; and be it further

RESOLVED: that these programs provide reasonable compensation to farmers and processors and serve as a temporary market bridge, helping Pennsylvania farmers remain economically viable following the unexpected loss of a market while reducing food waste and providing nutritious Pennsylvania-produced foods to families in need.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

DRAFT

Resolution #28 — Educational Systems
Goshen Grange #121, Chester County

WHEREAS: the educational model currently in use by most schools in America is based on the Prussian system designed to produce students capable of following directions, and

WHEREAS: this is not conducive for developing critical thinking skills, and

WHEREAS: critical thinking is vital for a democratic society to prosper, since without it people become susceptible to misinformation, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Grange at all levels encourage all educational institutions to adopt systems emphasizing any method which encourages questioning, critical thinking, and real world experiences.

	ADOPTED	ADOPTED AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

DRAFT