

PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE

Resolutions



151st Annual Session
OCTOBER 19 – 22, 2023
MORGANTOWN, PA

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Resolution #1 — Solar Farms Berks County Pomona Grange #43

WHEREAS: alternative energy sources have been popping up all around the country; and

WHEREAS: one of those sources is for solar farms; and

WHEREAS: many of these farms have been prime farmland, which is some of our most productive land and is an asset to lessening global warming; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that any class 1 and class 2 productive farmland not be allowed for solar farms; and be it further

RESOLVED: that townships and other government agencies, including state government officials encourage incentives for locating solar panels on lesser productive land or locations.

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1 **Resolution #2 —Foreign Farmland Ownership in Pennsylvania**
 2 **Ontelaunee Grange No. 1617**
 3 **Berks County Pomona Grange #43**

4
 5 **WHEREAS:** there is growing national concern over foreign ownership of farmland located
 6 near military installations; and

7
 8 **WHEREAS:** foreign governments have demonstrated their interest in spying in intrusive ways
 9 such as the Chinese spy balloon incident in February 2023 which flew over sensitive missile
 10 sites in the United States; and

11
 12 **WHEREAS:** recently, the Chinese tried to take ownership of a farm adjacent to a military
 13 base in North Dakota; and

14
 15 **WHEREAS:** there does not appear to be data on the extent and location of foreign-owned
 16 farms in Pennsylvania; therefore, be it

17
 18 **RESOLVED:** that Berks County Grange supports passage of a legislative Resolution directing
 19 the PA Legislative & Finance Committee to research the PA farmland acreage to see how
 20 much of it is owned by foreign interests; and be it further

21
 22 **RESOLVED:** that this report will include information on the proximity the foreign-owned
 23 farmland is to both state and Federal military bases or technological structures in
 24 Pennsylvania.

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 26 Information sources:

- 27 • <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/07/19/china-buying-us-farms-foreign-purchase-499893>
- 28 • <https://newhouse.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/newhouse-demands-answers-chinese-owned-farmland-near-us-military>

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1 **Resolution #3 — Maintaining Section 702 of The Clean Streams Law of 1937**
 2 **Lancaster County Pomona Grange #71**
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4 **WHEREAS:** On October 16, 1980, Section 702 was added to The Clean Streams Law of 1937,
 5 stating:--No administrative agency of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof
 6 shall require any person to erect a fence along a stream in a pasture or other field used for
 7 grazing of farm livestock for the purpose of keeping farm livestock out of the stream; and
 8

9 **WHEREAS:** livestock owners understand their role as stewards of the land and animals in
 10 their care; and
 11

12 **WHEREAS:** establishing an effective fencing barrier to livestock can be a significant financial
 13 burden with little economic benefit to the landowner; therefore be it
 14

15 **RESOLVED:** the Pennsylvania State Grange opposes legislation permitting local municipalities
 16 or other agencies to require landowners to erect and maintain stream and waterway
 17 exclusionary fences; and be it further
 18

19 **RESOLVED:** the Pennsylvania State Grange encourages pastureland owners with livestock to
 20 consider federal, state and conservation group-based cost-sharing programs to make the
 21 fencing of streams and waterways a more economically viable option for their business.
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1 **Resolution #4 — Disposal of Used Clothing**
2 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** the disposal of used clothing is a massive problem as these textiles often end up
5 in landfills; and

6

7 **WHEREAS:** it should be illegal to throw out clothing and other textiles to dispose of such
8 materials in any method that destined their future as fill in a landfill; and

9

10 **WHEREAS:** virtually all textiles could be reused, repurposed or recycled if clean and dry. Even
11 worn, torn and stained have recovery value; therefore be it

12

13 **RESOLVED:** that all recyclable should be recycled in a recycling program that will change the
14 items) to a new, use product.

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1 **Resolution #5 — Proposed French Creek National Wildlife Refuge**
2 **Hayfield Grange # 800, Crawford County**

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WHEREAS: the US Fish and Wildlife Service are proposing to make the French Creek Watershed a Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS: this proposal takes in over 790,000 acres of prime farmland and covering the area from Chautauqua, New York to Erie, Crawford, Mercer, and Venango Counties in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS: if this goes into effect, it will also take land off the tax rolls and have a major impact on agriculture, business, and the economy; and

WHEREAS: if this goes into effect the tax burden will fall on those left behind to make up the difference; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that this proposal be stopped and not enacted leaving everything as it is; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange strongly oppose the establishment of the French Creek Wildlife Refuge by the United State Fish & Wildlife Service and communicate opposition to elected officials.

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1 **Resolution #6 —Solar Panel Initiative**
 2 **Ontelaunee Grange No. 1617**
 3 **Berks County Pomona Grange #43**

4
 5 **WHEREAS:** solar energy initiatives worldwide are receiving increasing support; and

6
 7 **WHEREAS:** construction of solar farms is currently happening in Pennsylvania and the United
 8 States; and

9
 10 **WHEREAS:** in many situations, the land used for solar farm projects is quite substantial and
 11 increasingly being installed as cost-effectively as possible, meaning close to the ground; and

12
 13 **WHEREAS:** solar farms are being installed on productive farmland in some cases; and

14
 15 **WHEREAS:** solar farms, while being an asset to reducing dependency on fossil fuels, should
 16 also consider the long-term effect of location and ground consumption; and

17
 18 **WHEREAS:** there are alternative designs of solar farm construction that may have added
 19 benefits such as solar canopies, but more initial expense; and

20
 21 **WHEREAS:** the initial cost to install solar fields over such spaces increases the usability of the
 22 space that is now shaded; and

23
 24 **WHEREAS:** our goal of future gains with solar farms is not in such haste as we neglect to
 25 respect our natural resources such as open lands and usable farmland for future
 26 generations; therefore, be it

27
 28 **RESOLVED:** that, where practical, solar farms should be placed on parking lots and spaces
 29 that are already stripped of agricultural value; and be it further

30
 31 **RESOLVED:** that before granting land use permission for solar farms, this option is explored
 32 in the same geographic area.

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 34 <https://www.cnet.com/home/energy-and-utilities/solar-parking-lots-are-a-win-win-energy-idea-why-arent-they-the-norm/>

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 37 <https://e360.yale.edu/features/putting-solar-panels-atop-parking-lots-a-green-energy-solution>
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COMMITTEE					
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1 **Resolution #7 — Meat Processing**
2 **Red Lion Grange # 1781, York County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** the Federal Government and USDA oversee regulation and permitting for
5 slaughtering and butchering of animals meant for human consumption; and
6

7 **WHEREAS:** these regulations are ‘one size fits all’ meant for large-scale slaughtering and
8 processing of meat and pose barriers to competition for small-scale butchering operations
9 run by farmers because these rules assume a large economy of scale suitable for large
10 corporations but costly for smaller facilities; and
11

12 **WHEREAS:** there has been a consolidation in the meat processing industry as reported by
13 the White House September 6, 2021 where now only four companies dominate the meat
14 food supply chain in the United States: 82% of beef compared to 25% in 1977; 66% of pork
15 versus 33% in 1976; and 54% of poultry compared to 35% in 1986; and
16

17 **WHEREAS:** consumers are the ultimate losers without sufficient numbers of locally-owned
18 meat operations both for the peace of mind coming with a stable supply of meat and
19 satisfaction of meat quality from an accountable local operation; therefore be it;
20

21 **RESOLVED:** hat the Pennsylvania State Grange supports the passage of H.R. 2814 or similar
22 legislation granting exemptions to farmers engaged in small-scale butchering and meat
23 processing for human consumption; and urges National Grange support of the same; and be
24 it further
25

26 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange express its appreciation to PA Members of
27 Congress Representatives Scott Perry in the 10th District and Lloyd Smucker in the 11th
28 District for their sponsorship of H.R. 2814 in the 118th Congress, 2023-24.
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1 **Resolution #9 Safe, Practical, Clean Energy Solutions**
2 **Liberty Grange #1780, Lawrence County**

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WHEREAS: the Grange has been advocating on many issues that affect farmers and rural families throughout the United States for over 156 years; and

WHEREAS: our country has been looking for different ways to help find clean solutions to our energy problem, including the uses of solar and wind. We need to remember that these types of energy are not completely clean and often have unrecyclable components; and

WHEREAS: currently, the Grange supports the preservation of Class 1 and Class 2 farmland and the preservation of lands used for the production of hardwoods; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange and National Grange continue to support its current policies on clean energy but also include:

1. Supporting regulations that ensure the safety of farmlands, rural areas and the people, animals and wildlife that live nearby.
2. Support studies that can help assure that animals and wildlife are not compromised in any way and are protected from long term exposure.
3. Support bonding to protect landowners and the corrections to the land that may need to be made at the end of the lease.
4. Support environmentally safe options that avoid hazardous materials and are recyclable.
5. Support regulations that ensure the safety of consumers and utility workers when adding stored energy into the power grid.

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1 **Resolution #9 —Amend Agricultural Foreign Disclosure Act – Foreign Farmland Ownership**
 2 **Ontelaunee Grange No. 1617**
 3 **Berks County Pomona Grange #43**

4
 5 **WHEREAS:** foreign investors own 35.2 million acres of US farmland; and

6
 7 **WHEREAS:** some foreign farmland acquisition (Texas) and attempted acquisition (North
 8 Dakota) is located near US military bases raising questions of our military security because of
 9 potential spying and electronic sabotage; and

10
 11 **WHEREAS:** a large national pork producer and owner of hog-producing farms is owned by a
 12 foreign firm; and according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ Global Food
 13 Security Program, it increased pork exports to that country even while US consumers were
 14 facing supply chain problems during the COVID crisis; and

15
 16 **WHEREAS:** the 1978 Agricultural Foreign Disclosure Act which requires foreign investor
 17 reporting relies on self-reporting and has not had any USDA enforcement action since 2015.
 18 Therefore, be it

19
 20 **RESOLVED:** that Berks County Pomona Grange and the Pennsylvania State Grange supports
 21 amending the Agriculture Foreign Disclosure Act to:

- 22
- 23 • Declare that enhanced regulation of foreign farmland ownership is a matter of
 - 24 national military and food security.
 - 25 • Prohibit foreign ownership of farmland within 50 miles of any US military base or
 - 26 installation.
 - 27 • Ban ownership of or more than ten percent of shares in any food production,
 - 28 processing, or distribution by a foreign entity with attempted purchases vetted by
 - 29 USDA working in conjunction with the US Commerce Department and US
 - 30 Department of Homeland Security.
 - 31 • That the 2023 Farm Bill be amended to provide a dedicated funding source from the
 - 32 Department of Homeland Security necessary to make the Agriculture Foreign
 - 33 Disclosure Act law operational and enforceable.

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 35 Information sources:

- 36 • [https://www.csis.org/analysis/foreign-purchases-us-agricultural-land-facts-figures-](https://www.csis.org/analysis/foreign-purchases-us-agricultural-land-facts-figures-and-assessment-real-threats)
- 37 [and-assessment-real-threats.](https://www.csis.org/analysis/foreign-purchases-us-agricultural-land-facts-figures-and-assessment-real-threats)
- 38 • [https://newhouse.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/newhouse-demands-](https://newhouse.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/newhouse-demands-answers-chinese-owned-farmland-near-us-military)
- 39 [answers-chinese-owned-farmland-near-us-military](https://newhouse.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/newhouse-demands-answers-chinese-owned-farmland-near-us-military)

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GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES

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3 **Resolution #10 — Cannabis Regulations -Remove from Schedule One Drug**
4 **Oliver Grange #1069**
5 **Perry County Pomona Grange #69**
6

7 **WHEREAS:** Cannabis was placed on the drug classification schedule as a schedule one drug
8 as a result of the marijuana tax Act of 1937; and
9

10 **WHEREAS:** as this act has been replaced by the Controlled Substances Act in 1970; and
11

12 **WHEREAS:** Cannabis was used to manufacture rope, material, paint, and the oil was used as
13 a lubricant and used as a water repellent; therefore be it
14

15 **RESOLVED:** the National Grange work to advance legislation that would remove Cannabis
16 from schedule one drug and regulations be delegated back to the state.
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21 **Resolution #11 — Cannabis – Schedule One Drug – VA Benefits**
22 **Oliver Grange #1069**
23 **Perry County Pomona Grange #69**
24

25 **WHEREAS:** Cannabis is listed as a Schedule one Drug; and
26

27 **WHEREAS:** as a Veteran in possession of medical marijuana allowed by their state of
28 residence could lose their VA benefits; therefore be it
29

30 **RESOLVED:** the National Grange work to advance legislation that would prevent a veteran
31 from losing any of their benefits if they are participating in a state approved marijuana
32 program.
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1 **Resolution #12 — Cannabis – Federal Government - Banking**
 2 **Oliver Grange #1069**
 3 **Perry County Pomona Grange #69**
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5 **WHEREAS:** most banking institutions will not provide services to businesses associated with
 6 Cannabis due to it being a Schedule one drug; and
 7

8 **WHEREAS:** if the Federal Government seizes the assets of a company operating a legal
 9 business as authorized by that state the bank would lose its investment; therefore be it
 10

11 **RESOLVED:** the National Grange support legislation that would prevent the Federal
 12 Government from seizing the assets of a company operating and authorized legal business
 13 according to state laws.
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1 **Resolution #13 — Electric Vehicle “Road Tax”**
2 **Valley Grange #1360, York County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** there is an emphasis to encourage use of electrically powered vehicles; and
5

6 **WHEREAS:** electrically powered vehicles can be much heavier than fossil fuel vehicles, due to
7 the weight of their batteries; and
8

9 **WHEREAS:** fossil fuel vehicles are taxed by the fuel they consume, but electrically powered
10 vehicles are not; and
11

12 **WHEREAS:** the current Pennsylvania fuel tax is \$0.611 per gallon, which is used to maintain
13 roadways in the Commonwealth; therefore be it
14

15 **WHEREAS:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange support legislation to initiate and enforce a
16 “road tax” on battery electric vehicles as determined by the yearly mileage as reported at
17 the time of annual inspection; be it further
18

19 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange support the implementation of a statewide
20 system to allow for taxpayers to make regular periodic payments on a battery electric
21 vehicle “road tax” in lieu of an annual fee.
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1 **Resolution #14 —Tax Incentives for Vehicle Purchases**
2 **Valley Grange #1360, York County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** there is a federal program offering tax credits exclusively for individuals who
5 purchase electrically powered vehicles; and

6
7 **WHEREAS:** most of the electricity in the United States is still being generated by fossil fuels;
8 and

9
10 **WHEREAS:** the environmental benefits of electrically powered vehicles are mitigated by the
11 electricity on which they run being created by fossil fuels; and

12
13 **WHEREAS:** electrically powered vehicles are unable to be recycled because of the current
14 use of lithium-ion batteries; therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange and National Grange oppose government-
17 subsidized tax credits that solely target the purchase of electrically powered vehicles.

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1 **Resolution #15 — Employee Severance Rights**
2 **Plumsteadville Grange #1738, Bucks County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania law regarding employee severance and termination is silent on the
5 question of accrued sick leave or vacation paid to separated or terminated employees; and
6

7 **WHEREAS:** the post-COVID business environment is uncertain regarding to recovery,
8 restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, layoffs, business closures; and
9

10 **WHEREAS:** not paying accrued sick leave and vacation to a separated or terminated
11 employee violates the inherent trust or good faith that an employee has that an employer
12 will honor written and verbal employment obligations; therefore be it
13

14 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports enactment of an amendment to the
15 PA Wage Payment and Collection Law that includes employee-accrued sick leave and
16 vacation days in the definition of “wage”; be it further
17

18 **RESOLVED:** that the PA Wage Payment and Collection Law also be amended to include a
19 **definition of implied contract which states:**
20

21 *‘implied termination agreement’ is defined as a reasonable expectation that an employee has,*
22 *absent a written contract, that the employer will meet obligations of accrued sick leave and*
23 *accrued vacation time as communicated by an employer manual, printed materials relative to*
24 *employment, and unwritten verbal statements made by the employer to a prospective,*
25 *current, separated, or terminated employee when the separation or termination is not because*
26 *of wrongful, illegal, or intentional acts that pose a harm to the employer.*

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1 **Resolution #16 — Protective Measures to Prevent Lithium Battery Fires**
2 **Valley Grange #1360, York County**

3
4 **WHEREAS:** Americans are increasingly dependent on energy generated by lithium batteries
5 for personal comfort, for laptops, smart phones, transportation and for commerce; and
6

7 **WHEREAS:** increased use of lithium batteries poses a threat of fire as shown by battery-
8 caused fires in automobiles, planes, e-bikes, solar systems; and
9

10 **WHEREAS:** the NBC News report of February 7, 2023, identified lithium fire examples in a
11 Connecticut electric transit bus, a killer fire in a New York City apartment, a multi-family
12 residence fire caused by batteries in electric scooter batteries, a day care center in Queens
13 where nearly 20 children were injured which prompted the New York City Fire Department
14 to report that there were almost 200 battery fires in 2022, double the numbers of battery
15 fires in 2021, and over ten times more than the 13 injuries reported in 2019; and
16

17 **WHEREAS:** one of the most serious lithium-battery fires occurred in Pennsylvania within a
18 recycling facility managed by a major waste management company which was closed for a
19 year because of difficulties in suppressing the fire; and
20

21 **WHEREAS:** the threat is so serious that the U.S. Postal Service classifies lithium batteries as a
22 hazardous material and restricts mailing of products containing lithium batteries while the
23 Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration prohibit
24 spare (uninstalled) lithium batteries, power packs and cell phone battery charging cases
25 from being checked into luggage; and
26

27 **WHEREAS:** there have been automobile recalls by Tesla, General Motors, Audi, and Hyundai
28 because of possibly faulty fire-prone battery systems; therefore be it
29

30 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange urges elected officials and state government
31 entities to develop and implement an education campaign for consumers, businesses and
32 those in the waste industry regarding safety standards and best management practices for
33 storage and proper disposal of lithium batteries.

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1 **Resolution #17 —Electric Vehicle Fees**
 2 **Hamburg Grange No. 2103**
 3 **Berks County Pomona Grange #43**

4
 5 **WHEREAS:** U.S. sales of electrical vehicles have climbed dramatically per data from the U.S.
 6 Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy showing doubling of
 7 sales between 2020 (308,000) and 2021 (608,000); and

8
 9 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania electric vehicle registrations topped 15,500 in 2021, and reached
 10 43,725 in March 2023, according to a May 1, 2023, Fiscal Note from the PA Senate
 11 Appropriations Committee; and

12
 13 **WHEREAS:** a consequence of the growth in electric vehicle use is a loss of tax revenue for
 14 highway maintenance and bridge construction that comes from motor fuel purchases; and

15
 16 **WHEREAS:** municipalities in PA may soon find themselves in a deficit when trying to
 17 maintain local transportation infrastructure because the Federal Biden Infrastructure
 18 monies, when spent, will dig a big hole without sufficient resources; and

19
 20 **WHEREAS:** according to PennDOT’s 2021 Highway Data report, there were 78,366 local
 21 municipal-owned miles where the municipality pays for maintenance and construction; and

22
 23 **WHEREAS:** electric vehicles owners, who are not currently paying Motor Fuel Tax, should
 24 contribute to paying for road maintenance and improvements; therefore, be it

25
 26 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports legislation giving municipalities the
 27 authority by the Commonwealth to assess fees to electric vehicle commercial and private
 28 owners as Payment In Lieu of Taxes and that these funds will be dedicated to non-state-
 29 owned street needs within municipal boundaries.

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**Resolution #18 — Infrastructure Fee for Electric Vehicles in Pennsylvania
Lancaster County Pomona Grange #71**

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania drivers currently pay a tax of 61.1 cents per gallon when purchasing wholesale gasoline and 78.5 cents for automotive diesel, a fee designed to help pay for the upkeep of the highway system within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS: owners of electric vehicles are required to file monthly statements with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and remit the alternative fuel tax in accordance with how much electric their vehicle uses; and

WHEREAS: many electric vehicle drivers are not mindful of this requirement, leading to the funds not being collected by the state even though these electric vehicle drivers use the same roads and infrastructure used by those paying the gas tax; therefore be it

RESOLVED: the Pennsylvania State Grange supports eliminating the alternative fuel tax and replacing it with an annual mileage-based fee to ensure all Pennsylvania drivers are contributing towards the maintenance of the state’s roads, bridges and infrastructure; and be it further

RESOLVED: revenue from this fee would go into the Motor License Fund for highway maintenance and construction.

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1 **Resolution #19 — Inheritance Tax**
2 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania is one of the very few states that still has an Inheritance Tax; and

5

6 **WHEREAS:** Inheritance Taxes can be widely interpreted as double taxation as this money
7 was earned, probably subject to Individual Income Tax which disproportionately affects
8 working people who cannot afford two residences; and

9

10 **WHEREAS:** This money was taxed again when it was spent on property in a variety of
11 circumstances; therefore be it

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13 **RESOLVED:** that Pennsylvania's Inheritance Tax be abolished.

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1 **Resolution #20 — Statute of Limitations**
2 **Big Knob Grange #2008, Beaver County**

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4 **WHEREAS:** the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Labor Statistics in a five-year study released July
5 11, 2017, reported the shocking news that persons with disabilities aged 12-64 were victims 2 and
6 one-half times more than those persons without disabilities; and

7
8 **WHEREAS:** among those persons with disabilities aged 12-15 had the highest rate of victimization of
9 the age groups studied (144.1 per 1,000) aged 12 and older; and

10
11 **WHEREAS:** an additional U.S. Department of Justice study of victimization between 2009-2019
12 released November 4, 2021, showed that persons with disabilities comprised 26% of all nonfatal
13 violent crime, were 33% of all robberies, and persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rate
14 of victimization (83.3 per 1,000) among the disability types measured; and

15
16 **WHEREAS:** as the priest predator scandal shows, many sexual crimes against children are not
17 reported until after decades, if then, and among sexual assault/rape victims with disabilities, only
18 19% of these crimes were reported to police versus 36% for sexual crime victims without disabilities;
19 therefore be it

20
21 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange supports legislation such as H.B 1614 which will help
22 families with vulnerable and non-verbal members with disabilities remove the statute of limitations
23 barrier for reporting crimes that come to light after the current statute of limitations would prevent
24 legal action.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
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GOOD OF THE ORDER

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Resolution #21 — Junior Jamboree Volunteers Russellville Grange #91, Chester County

WHEREAS: Any adult in a volunteer position in Pennsylvania involving the welfare of children requires clearances. According to PA Child Protective Service Law, “Direct volunteer contact with children is defined in §6303 (relating to definitions) as the care, supervision, guidance or control and routine interaction with children”; and

WHEREAS: adult volunteers accompany Junior Grangers on the Junior Jamboree to supervise and provide guidance and care to them. However, parents of Junior Grangers attending Junior Jamboree may be unaware of the volunteers who will be accompanying the Juniors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Pennsylvania State Grange Volunteer Policy be amended to include:

Section 4.3.5 The names of all adult volunteers, including parents, attending Junior Jamboree will be made available upon request to the parents/guardians of any Junior Granger attending Junior Jamboree by October 1st.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

1 **Resolution #22 — Documentation of Sixth and Seventh Degree**
2 **Ontelaunee Grange #1617**
3 **Berks County Pomona Grange #43**

4
5 **WHEREAS:** the National Grange Journal of Proceedings documents the actions taken at the
6 annual National Grange session, and

7
8 **WHEREAS:** one of the historical events is those Patrons who receive the Sixth and Seventh
9 Degrees at this annual event, and

10
11 **WHEREAS:** the individuals taking the Sixth and Seventh Degrees become an integral part of
12 each year’s annual session, and

13
14 **WHEREAS:** documentation in the annual Journal of Proceedings should include names of
15 these individuals who receive the Sixth and Seventh Degrees so in future years individuals
16 can access this information in the event someone has lost their certificate due to relocation,
17 or a fire in the home destroying all contents; therefore be it

18
19 **RESOLVE:** National Grange should document the names of those members receiving the
20 Sixth and Seventh Degrees at a National Session in the Journal of Proceedings and make this
21 information accessible to all members of the Grange.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
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1 **Resolution #23 — Listing of Sixth & Seventh Degree Candidates in National Journal of**
 2 **Proceedings**
 3 **Crawford County Pomona Grange #26**

4
 5 **WHEREAS:** the PA State Grange is celebrating 150 years since its organization; and

6
 7 **WHEREAS:** part of the celebration will include recognition of those members who received
 8 the Sixth Degree 50 or more years ago; and

9
 10 **WHEREAS:** in attempting to verify those members information in the PA Journal of
 11 Proceedings; and

12
 13 **WHEREAS:** if National Grange was held in close proximity to PA, a listing of those members
 14 taking the Sixth and the Seventh Degrees are not listed in the National Journal of
 15 Proceedings; therefore be it

16
 17 **RESOLVED:** that in the future those members receiving the Sixth and Seventh Degrees at a
 18 National Session be listed in the National Journal of Proceedings.

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COMMITTEE					
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1 **Resolution #24 — Junior Jamboree Volunteers**
2 **Russellville Grange #91, Chester County**

3
4 **WHEREAS:** any adult in a volunteer position in Pennsylvania involving the welfare of children
5 requires clearances. According to PA Child Protective Service Law, “Direct volunteer contact
6 with children is defined in §6303 (relating to definitions) as the care, supervision, guidance
7 or control and routine interaction with children;” and
8

9 **WHEREAS:** male and female Junior Grangers attend Junior Jamboree and may have
10 emergencies that arise while on this outing. These emergencies may require an adult of the
11 same gender to be present to assist, if required. In addition, there should be enough adult
12 volunteers present to maintain safety if an emergency requires transportation to a medical
13 facility; therefore be it
14

15 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange Volunteer Policy be amended to include:

16
17 4.6 Junior Jamboree Volunteers

18
19 4.6.1 Volunteers for Junior Jamboree must include, at a minimum, four adult volunteers. Per
20 Section 4.3.4, these volunteers will all have clearances on file in the registry.
21

22 4.6.2 There must be a minimum of two male and two female volunteers attending Junior
23 Jamboree.
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1 **Resolution #25 — Clearances for State Officers**
 2 **Russellville Grange #91, Chester County**

3
 4 **WHEREAS:** any adult in a volunteer position in Pennsylvania involving the welfare of children
 5 requires clearances. According to PA Child Protective Service Law, “Direct volunteer contact
 6 with children is defined in §6303 (relating to definitions) as the care, supervision, guidance
 7 or control and routine interaction with children;” and

8
 9 **WHEREAS:** officers and Department Chairs are encouraged to participate in Grange activities
 10 involving minors; therefore be it

11
 12 **RESOLVED:** that Article XV of the Pennsylvania State Grange By-Laws be amended to read as
 13 follows:

14
 15 1.15.1 All officers and Department Chairs of the Pennsylvania State Grange shall, within 30
 16 days of their election or appointment, submit valid clearances or apply for clearances for
 17 working with minors as required by applicable state law. **Valid clearances must be**
 18 **submitted within 90 days of election or appointment.**

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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 22 **Resolution #26 — Reinstate Deputy Program**
 23 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

24
 25 **WHEREAS:** the dwindling number of Granges and Grangers have made statewide
 26 communication and instruction more difficult; therefore be it

27
 28 **RESOLVED:** that the Deputy Program be reinstated with at least one Deputy per Pomona
 29 District.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
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1 **Resolution #27 — Grange Officer Titles**
 2 **Big Knob Grange #2008**
 3 **Beaver County Pomona Grange #66**

4
 5 **WHEREAS:** we salute and thank newly elected Master of the PA State Grange, Matthew
 6 Espenshade, for changing the title of his column in the PA Grange News to “The Master’s
 7 Station” and signing it “Fraternally, Master Matt” in the tradition of using that title for
 8 Internal Grange communication; and

9
 10 **WHEREAS:** the title “President was approved during the Action Grange program for use in
 11 external communications, thus giving the general public the understanding that the Master
 12 is the chief executive officer of the organization at all levels of the fraternity; therefore be it

13
 14 **RESOLVED:** that the traditional officer titles for elected officials of the Grange at all levels be
 15 recorded in the minutes, used in roll calls, and used in all regular meetings of the Order of
 16 Patrons of Husbandry from the local to the National levels.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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20 **Resolution #28 — Equal Access to proposed Grange State Budget**
 21 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

22
 23 **WHEREAS:** delegates at State Grange Session have the right to review the proposed State
 24 Grange budget and present questions and concerns before the budget is voted on; and

25
 26 **WHEREAS:** Subordinate Grange members have been afforded no such access to the
 27 proposed budget to read and discuss beforehand at a subordinate meeting; therefore be it

28
 29 **RESOLVED:** that State Grange will support this motion to submit the proposed yearly budget
 30 one month before State Grange Session so that all Subordinate Grange members have the
 31 opportunity to review and submit questions and concerns to their delegates to take to the
 32 State Session.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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1 **Resolution #29 — Officers to Stay in Stations during Session**
 2 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

3
 4 **WHEREAS:** the proceedings of the State Grange provide the highest level of Grange
 5 meetings that most members ever witness; and

6
 7 **WHEREAS:** Grange ritual is very specific regarding the sanctity of the meeting room and the
 8 procedures for moving into and out of the meeting area; and therefore be it

9
 10 **RESOLVED:** that Pennsylvania State Grange sessions should comply with those specific
 11 instructions that all officers and members will respect the Grange proceedings and that
 12 those proceedings should exemplify the dignity with which they were intended respecting all
 13 aspects of our ritual by staying at their appointed stations.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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 18 **Resolution #30 — Different Themes for Exhibits at Fairs**
 19 **Harveys-Aleppo Grange #1444, Greene County**

20
 21 **WHEREAS:** many Granges use a different theme for their exhibits at fairs; and

22
 23 **WHEREAS:** Granges use the National Grange theme, their own theme, etc., which may be
 24 confusing to the viewing public. To be consistent and highlight our continuity, it would be
 25 less confusing for every Grange to use our National Grange theme; therefore be it

26
 27 **RESOLVED:** that all Granges be required to use the National Grange theme for their exhibits
 28 throughout the year.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
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1 **Resolution #31 — Reinstating Lifetime Membership**
2 **Hookstown Grange #1980, Beaver County**

3
4 **WHEREAS:** the majority of the members in our local Grange are lifetime members; and

5
6 **WHEREAS:** those lifetime members are the most dedicated and active workers in our
7 Grange; and

8
9 **WHEREAS:** many of the new members of our Grange have voiced a desire to also secure
10 lifetime membership; and

11
12 **WHEREAS:** there would be many other dedicated subordinate Grangers across the state who
13 also desire to become lifetime members; and

14
15 **WHEREAS:** those who presently have lifetime memberships have been dedicated members,
16 remaining loyal and active throughout their lives, proving lifetime membership an incentive
17 to fully support their local Grange; and

18
19 **WHEREAS:** there are ways the benefit of lifetime membership might be presented to those
20 members who are entitled to it in a way that would entice them to secure it; and

21
22 **WHEREAS:** although the past lifetime membership program was not able to sustain itself,
23 the value of the program may be seen as vital to the future of the Grange in our state;
24 therefore be it

25
26 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange research viable ways to reinstate entry into
27 the Lifetime Membership Program.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
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FAMILY ISSUES

Resolution #32 — Affordable Child Care in Rural America Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076, Lancaster County

WHEREAS: nearly ¾ of farm families with children under the age of 18 report challenges in securing childcare due to affordability; and

WHEREAS: half of these families report access to affordable childcare is important for maintaining and growing their farm businesses; and

WHEREAS: 3 in 5 rural communities are categorized as childcare ‘deserts’; therefore be it

RESOLVED: the Pennsylvania State Grange and the National Grange support the inclusion of funding in the Farm Bill to build a program to provide farm and rural families access to affordable childcare in their communities.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

Resolution #33 — Dog Paw Pilot Program to Pennsylvania Elizabethtown Area Grange #2076, Lancaster County

WHEREAS: dog bites are a challenge for letter carriers and may not know if a home has a dog; and

WHEREAS: nearly 5,000 postal workers have been bitten annually; and

WHEREAS: the United States Postal Service has a pilot program called the Dog Paw program, where color coded stickers are used to indicate the home of a dog and its neighboring houses to better prepare a letter carrier as they approach the home; therefore be it

RESOLVED: the Pennsylvania State Grange work the Pennsylvania Rural Letter Carriers Association to advocate for the Dog Paw Program to be piloted in Pennsylvania.

	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

1 **Resolution #34 — Archery in Schools**
2 **Valley Grange #1360, York County**

3

4 **WHEREAS:** every year more than 1.3 million students in almost 9,000 schools in 49 states
5 participate in the National Archery in the Schools Program; and

6

7 **WHEREAS:** these students develop life skills, learning the ability to handle pressure and deal
8 with success and failure and building self-confidence through developing the skills of
9 archery; and

10

11 **WHEREAS:** archery is a safe sport that appeals equally to both genders as male and female
12 students compete side by side; and

13

14 **WHEREAS:** the US Department of Education issued guidance on withholding funds from
15 schools with archery programs in their curriculum; therefore be it

16

17 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange and National Grange support congressional
18 bipartisan actions to correct ambiguous language in the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities
19 Act (BSCA) that could prevent federal funds from supporting archery and related hunter
20 safety programs in schools.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
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1 **Resolution #35 — Continued Availability of Paper Coupons**
2 **Plumsteadville Grange # 1738, Bucks County**

3
4 **WHEREAS:** Many retailers and manufacturers are offering “digital only” coupons/discounts
5 vs paper coupons; and

6
7 **WHEREAS:** Individuals who do not have access to the Internet or smart phones cannot get
8 these discounted offers; and

9
10 **WHEREAS:** Individuals who do not have access to the Internet or smart phones tend to have
11 low / fixed income who would greatly benefit from saving money on their food budget; and

12
13 **WHEREAS:** legislation has been proposed in other states (NJ) to require alternatives to
14 digital discounts; therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED:** that the Pennsylvania State Grange support legislation to require retailers and
17 manufacturers to offer paper alternatives to “digital only” offers.

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	ADOPT	ADOPT AS AMENDED	REJECT	PRESENT POLICY	OTHER ACTION
COMMITTEE					
DELEGATES					

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